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THE NEWSPAPER FOR DEAL, WALMER & SURROUNDING VILLAGES



Issue No 85

Available from Wednesday,  
January 26, 2011

## STARTING INSIDE THIS WEEK

KOS MEDIA

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# Review

- Singer/songwriter Paul Carrick on tour
- Check out all of the latest homes on the property market



# B&B MAKES WORLD TOP 5 ON WEBSITE

## WHAT'S ON & WATCH

yourkenttv.co.uk



**ON BOARD:** The first commercial crossing of P&O's superferry the Pride of Britain. Yourkenttv was there

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Owners of Number One B&B in Deal are hoping for another increase in bookings after the guesthouse rose from number eight in the world's top 10 to number five, according to website Trip Advisor.

■ BY MATHEW BEECH

A SEASIDE bed and breakfast has been ranked in the top 10 in the world according to travel review website Trip Advisor.

The Number One B&B in Deal has been voted fifth, beating rivals from Arizona, Washington and Delhi.

The four-bedroom guest house has improved on last year's position, moving up from eighth.

Owner Neil Harper said: "It is brilliant, but I am going to take it with a pinch of salt because there are some very good places out there."

"We take it as it comes, and we are not doing anything to win favour with Trip Advisor; we are just doing what we do."

"Paul and I took over the place three and a half years ago and, while it was a bed and breakfast, it wasn't really running as business."

"We closed down for six months and we rewired, re-plumbed, replaced the windows with wooden sash frames, and turned one of the bedrooms into a bathroom so that every bedroom had an en suite."

The importance of internet reviews is something that Mr Harper understands, especially having seen a boost after last year.

He said: "The internet is the way to go, and the customers that we market to are all internet-savvy."

"Last year, we saw a rise in bookings, but it is too early to tell at the moment, although we are fully booked for the Open Championships in Sandwich."

"We have been booked up for months and are now at the stage where we are helping people find alternative accommodation."

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# Barriers could be removed in bid to reduce repair costs

■ BY MATHEW BEECH

PEDSTRIAN safety could be put at risk as Kent County Council (KCC) look to remove hundred of barriers as part of budget cuts, according to a Labour Councillor.

Up to 600 barrier sections in Dover could be removed as KCC seeks to save money on their maintenance costs and newly re-elected councillor Gordon Cowan believes people's lives could be put at risk.

"I have been disgusted by the way in which the Conservative-run county council has handled this," he said.

"Virtually every safety railing in the town is being removed without proper scrutiny by the Joint Transportation Committee and, it seems, without any proper study of the safety implications."

He added: "If there are good reasons for removing railings and barriers at some junctions, I would be the first to say take them away."

"But Kent Highways Service seems keen to rip up the lot, whether they keep pedestrians safe or not. Some of the barriers proposed for removal are used as supports for road signs, for example at the Maison Dieu and Pencester Road junction.

"Where will the signs go? And



NO PROTECTION? Roadside barriers could be removed as KCC looks to reduce maintenance costs

around the junction of Barton, Frith and Connaught Roads, where pupils at four schools have to cross, the barriers are to be removed. That is just plain crazy."

A report has been drawn up by contractor Jacobs, who are carrying out similar work in Maidstone, to assess the quality of the pedestrian barriers and whether they need to be removed, retained, or added to.

A spokesman for Kent Highways said: "We have commissioned an assessment of pedestrian barriers, which are not safety barriers – they

were not put up as a safety feature.

"We have got a consultant to look at the locations and report back whether the guard rails should be kept there, removed or have more put in place.

"We are looking at the guard rails and some will be removed to help save money on the maintenance costs, but no action will be taken until we have reached an agreement with the district council.

"No work has been done yet because the consultation process is still ongoing."

# Plea to retain care provision for elderly falls on deaf ears

FIERCE public opposition has failed to stop Kent County Council from pressing ahead with plans to close care homes for the elderly.

Despite thousands of people expressing concern through letters, questionnaires and petitions during a 19-week consultation, the authority has given itself the go-ahead for the proposals put forward in June, last year.

These include the closure of four care homes, including Sampson Court in Deal and Cornfields in Dover, and the selling-off or rebuilding of a further seven.

Councillor Graham Gibbons, Cabinet member for adult social services said: "Clearly there will be people who are unhappy that the decisions don't reflect their views.

"The key issue for me, however, has

been the need to balance today's needs with the demands of the future.

"The consultation was important and useful and I have listened carefully and thoroughly to the voices of people who did not agree with the original proposals, as well as those who do.

"In making my decision I have had to make a judgement about whether these objections are strong enough to challenge the reasoning behind the original proposals.

"I believe the twin challenges of the present and the future are best met by going ahead with the recommendations."

Sampson Court and Cornfields will be demolished along with Ladesfield in Whitstable, The Limes in Dartford and Lawrence House in Folkestone.

Replacing the Cornfields care home, 'extra care' social housing will be built, allowing residents to live independently but with carers available 24 hours a day.

Cllr Gibbons' choices, which cannot be implemented until January 24 at the earliest, come as little surprise after council officers recommended there be no changes to the original proposals.

Dover and Deal MP Charlie Elphick said: "I think closing Sampson Court would be a grave error.

"It is a much used and much loved facility and I've been making the case that it should be transferred to a different operator, as has Councillor Julie Rook, and we both feel very strongly for KCC to this would be a very wrong headed decision."

# Man and woman to face drink driving charges

A MAN has been arrested for drink driving.

David Ritson, 48, from Dorman Avenue South in Aylesham, was caught by police on Saturday, January 22, night by police driving while over the legal limit.

He was charged and released on bail to answer before Folkestone Magistrates on Monday, February 7.

Officers also arrested a 21-year-old woman, who was also caught behind the wheel when above the drink drive limit.

Claire Steer, of Ethelbert Road, Deal, was stopped by police in York Street, Dover, early on Saturday, January 22.

She was charged with drink/driving and released on bail to answer before Folkestone Magistrates on Friday 4 February.

Eastern and Coastal Kent NHS Community Health **NHS**

Do you want to find out more about your local NHS services in the community?

We are holding a showcase event, which gives you the opportunity to find out more about some of the 36 services we provide like community dentistry, physiotherapy and community nursing.

A question and answer session near the end of the Showcase will give you the chance to ask any burning questions to the directors that manage your community services.

Information about how social services, charities and local voluntary organisations can help you will also be available.

On 27 January 2011, starting at 11am and finishing at 1pm, the Showcase will be held at:

The Ark,  
Noah's Ark Road,  
Dover,  
CT17 0DD

Tel: 01304 225737



The Eastern and Coastal Kent Community Health NHS Trust Board Meeting in Public will also take place at The Ark on the same day starting at 1:30pm and closing at 4:30pm.

Refreshments are provided between the Showcase and the Board Meeting.

Copies of the Board Papers are available on our website, please visit [www.eckcommunityservices.nhs.uk](http://www.eckcommunityservices.nhs.uk).

For questions relating to the Board Meeting please contact Jill Mackenzie on 01233 667840 or email [jill.mackenzie@eastcoastkent.nhs.uk](mailto:jill.mackenzie@eastcoastkent.nhs.uk).



**SMOOTH PASSAGE:** The £150m P&O Spirit of Britain makes her maiden voyage to Calais – she will make up to five crossings each day

# That's the Spirit as super ferry sets sail on maiden crossing

P&O FERRY'S new multi-million pound super-ferry has successfully entered service.

The Spirit of Britain made her first crossing to Calais at 9.20am on Friday, January 21 under blue skies and on calm seas.

The £150 million ship is the first of two giant vessels for P&O which will make up to five return crossings from Dover to Calais.

For her maiden voyage, the Spirit of Britain was far from full, carrying 99 lorries, but this was still more than the ship she replaced, the Pride of Dover, was able to transport in a single crossing.

The carrying capacity of the ship is just one of many new design features incorporated into the ferry's design.

Communications director Chris Lamming said: "It is a massive investment and it is the next generation, so we're investing really in this tonnage for the next 25 years, that's sort of the shelf life for a vessel like this, so we've gone really big."

"We're confident we've got the

■ BY MATHEW BEECH

most efficient hull for maximum fuel economy and this hull is designed to take into account the shallow waters of the English Channel.

"This hull design minimises drag, it maximises fuel economy and because we can carry twice the number of lorries as the old ferries could carry for the same running costs, we are enhancing our green credentials and at the same time we're helping to keep ticket prices low."

There were a few minor teething problems onboard, mainly with the tills, while a few areas of the ferry still required painting because this was unable to be completed at the shipyard in Finland freezing conditions which made this impossible.

However, the minor issues did not prevent passengers making the most of the new retail area on board, as well as relaxing in the various cafés or bars on board.

The BBC's travel expert Simon

Calder said: "I think it this is absolutely terrific.

"Sure, we're just beneficiaries of the fact that there is a awful lot of freight that P&O has eyes on, and therefore we are just the icing on the cake as it were, but it is a vastly improved passenger experience.

"You've still got all the great bits of ferries, I can still go out onto the deck and watch the White Cliff of Dover approaching – it is a lovely way to travel.

"It is the complete opposite of air travel these days, which is becoming more and more stressful.

"This is basically, sit back, relax and enjoy the view."

Chief Executive Helen Deeble said: "There is a big resurgence in passengers moving from air back to travelling by sea and we want to maximise that."

"It is very exciting and all the staff are thrilled to be working on here and it really has given the whole company a boost at a time of really quite serious economic depression and lots of doom and gloom."

## Community radio team set for airwaves

THE Dover Community Radio (DCR) team are finishing their preparations before hitting the airwaves for the first time.

The group received a Kent County Council grant in October and since then they have been setting up their premises at the Phoenix Club in Dover.

The studios are being built to include a broadcast studio and training centre and it is hoped they will be ready from mid-February.

Whilst building work has been going on, the DCR team has

recorded interviews with the Bishop of Dover, Vivid Nation a local band from Canterbury, Vista Leisure and Kieran Gaffney, while also covering the Christmas Extravaganza.

The radio station has teamed up with local internet forum, Dover Locals, to create an online streaming service.

The station aims to have a wide variety of music from the 1950s to present with specialist programmes in the evenings and weekends.

Local musicians are being encouraged to contact the DCR team, who are planning to promote musicians from the area.

Coverage of local events, news stories, interviews and a wide variety of features plus local sport will be broadcast on the station.

Potential members are invited along to a meeting on Monday, January 24, at the Phoenix Social and Railway Club in Crabble Road.

For more information, visit [www.dcrfm.co.uk](http://www.dcrfm.co.uk).

## Man, 18, charged over shooting that left victim with serious chest injury

A TEENAGER who was arrested following a street shooting in Dover has appeared before magistrates in Folkestone.

Antoine Anicotte, 18, was arrested after a firearms incident in Frith Road, Dover on Monday January 17.

Anicotte, of Salisbury Road, Dover, was charged with causing grievous bodily harm with intent and attempting to pervert the course of justice.

He was remanded in custody and is due before Canterbury Crown Court on Monday, January 31.

The 18-year-old victim, who suffered a single chest wound, was transferred to a London hospital in a serious but stable condition and has undergone surgery.

A 17-year-old boy also arrested following the shooting was released without charge on Tuesday.

Police continue to investigate an alleged firearms offence and a hand gun seized after the incident is due to be tested by forensic officers.

The area commander for Dover held a press conference yesterday to reassure people that gun incidents in the area were very rare and he believed there was no reason for any



**CRIME SCENE:** Man was shot in Salisbury Road in Dover

increased concern among the town's residents.

The man was arrested after police were called around 8pm on Monday, to the Frith Road area of the town, where a man had sustained a single gun shot wound.

Charlton Cemetery was also cordoned off for examination.

Police are still appealing for anyone who has any information about this incident or who may have witnessed it to contact them.

They are also keen to trace a man in a white hooded top who was seen in the area of Charlton Cemetery and Beaconsfield Road around the time of the shooting.

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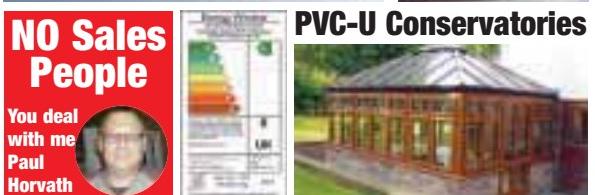
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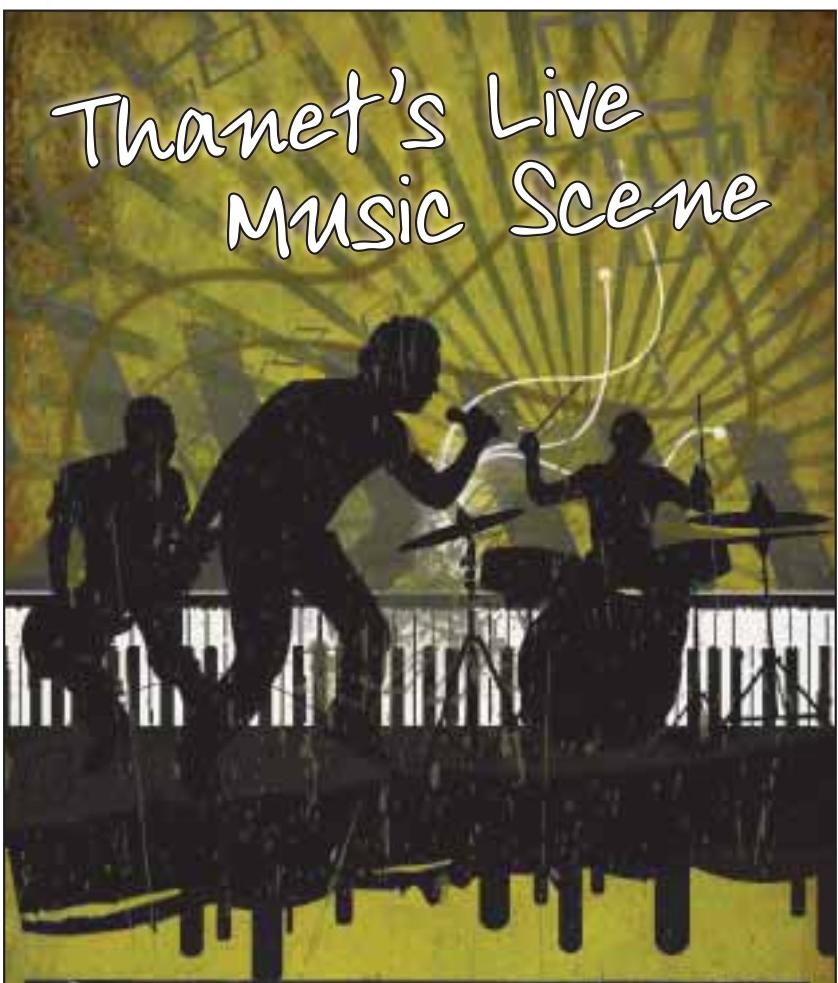
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# Thanet's Live Music Scene

## Where & When

Saturday 29th January

### **Eyelash**

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,  
Broadstairs 01843 861108

Friday 4th February

### **Fat B-stards**

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,  
Ramsgate 01843 586713

Friday 11th February

### **Jeepster**

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,  
Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 12th February

### **Barking Mad**

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,  
Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 12th February

### **Freed**

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,  
Ramsgate 01843 586713

Thursday 17th February

### **Blow the Duo**

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,  
Broadstairs 01843 861108

Friday 18th February

### **Breed**

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,  
Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 19th February

### **Radio Riot**

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,  
Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 19th February

### **Blues Mother**

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,  
Ramsgate 01843 586713

Friday 4th March

### **Moscow Riley**

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,  
Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 5th March

### **EK1**

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,  
Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 5th March

### **Chopper Nostrills**

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,  
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RSPCA Isle of Thanet Branch,  
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[www.rspcakent.org.uk](http://www.rspcakent.org.uk)

email: [ekac@rspcakent.org.uk](mailto:ekac@rspcakent.org.uk)

tel/fax: 01843 826180



Registered charity no: 209365



**MARKING TIME:** PCSO Gretel Stevens and KCC Community Warden Paul James with children from Capel Primary School

## New police scheme to leave its mark on residents' valuables

HUNDREDS of valuables have been protected as part of Kent Police's Stay Safe this Winter campaign.

Neighbourhood officer teams have security marked more than 250 items, ranging from electronics such as Wiis, ipods and laptops, through to skateboards and bicycles.

A series of property marking events, arranged by PCSOs and KCC community wardens, began on Thursday, January 6, have been held across the Dover district.

Bike lights and locks were also handed out to many of the children who had their bikes

■ BY MATTHEW BEECH

security marked thanks to the Smart Move project run by the KCC Community Wardens.

Security marking acts as a deterrent to thieves and if the item is stolen or missing, it makes it easier to identify and reunite with its owner.

The last opportunity to get your property marked is Saturday, January 29, between 11am and 2pm at Dover Library in Market Square.

No appointment is necessary, just turn up with the items you would like protected.

## How customs caught whiff of stowaway in lorry load of garlic

A MAN trying to illegally enter the country was spotted in the back of a lorry load of garlic.

The would-be illegal immigrant was found by UK Border Agency (UKBA) officers hiding inside a lorry load of the vegetable heading for Newington, Kent.

The Eritrean man was detected in a Spanish registered lorry at Calais port in the early hours of Monday, January 17, when officers noticed the trailer was not secured.

The stowaway was handed over to the French border police and the vehicle was allowed to continue onto its destination.

However, the Bulgarian driver and the haulage company now each face a potential fine of up to £2,000 if they are unable to prove they took steps to secure the vehicle.

Carole Upshall, UK Border Agency Director for South and Europe, said: "This



**CONCEALED:** Illegal immigrant from Eritrea in Africa incident shows why we base UK Border Agency staff in France – to stop would-be illegal immigrants before they can reach the UK.

"As well as physically searching vehicles, officers use heartbeat detectors, carbon dioxide probes and sniffer dogs to find people hiding in vehicles."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Hellfire Corner revealed

A NEW exhibition at Dover Museum tells the story of front-line Dover during the World War Two.

It follows the impact of the military development of the World War Two on Dover, and also the day to day lives of people in the town, living with rationing, nights in air raid shelters, evacuations and closed schools.

It features objects including gas masks, photographs, uniforms, air raid patrol items, information leaflets and also includes local memories from the museum's oral history archive, runs until Tuesday, May 3.

In May 1940, more than 200,000 of the 338,000 men evacuated from Dunkirk passed through Dover, filling the town and railway station with soldiers, sailors and airmen.

Vice Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay controlled the evacuation from his headquarters in tunnels beneath the castle.

Shells and bombs fell on Dover, killing 216 civilians and 10,056 premises were damaged and many had to be demolished and the town was a symbol for Britain's wartime bravery, the centre of east Kent's Hellfire Corner.

## See in Year of the Rabbit

CHINESE New Year will be welcomed with seafront celebrations.

The year of the Rabbit will be seen in with a special event on Dover's new esplanade.

Dover Arts Development is hosting the party on Thursday, February 3, from 6.30pm to 7.30pm at The North Downs Way End of Trail Marker, opposite the Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club.

There will be performances by China Crisis guitarist Colin Hinds, Fire Poi Master Ivan Cleak, Light Graffiti by the intrepid Urban Explorers; and readings of Mersey Poets influenced verse by Untidy Barry and Dover Beach by actor Roy Boyd. Chinese food from Zhan Lu Smith will also be available.

### Car gutted during blaze

A CAR has been completely destroyed following a fire.

Fire crews were called out to Laureston Place, Dover, at 8.30pm on Wednesday (January 19) to put out the blaze.

One pump from Dover attended the scene, moving surrounding cars to prevent the flames from spreading, and fire fighters used breathing apparatus while tackling the fire.

The crew could not prevent the Rover from being severely damaged before extinguishing the fire.

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KOS 30/01/11

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- Disembark in Marseilles

**INCLUDED:**

- Escorted throughout
- Champagne Check-in at London St Pancras
- Daytime rail travel London-Marseille-London
- Oversight stay in Lille or Paris outbound
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## Azores, Madeira & Western Mediterranean

Cruise South &amp; Rail Home - afternoon departure from London



Departs September 14, 2011

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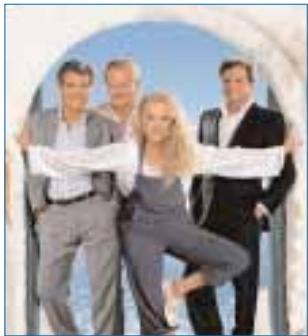
**PORTS OF CALL:** Embark Dover - UK • Azores - Horta, Praia da Vitoria & Ponta Delgada • Madeira - Funchal • Gibraltar • Mahon - Menorca • Disembark in Nice

- Included: Luxury coach travel from London to Dover • 14-night cruise on board the MV Athena • All meals on board (breakfast, lunch & dinner each day) • Entertainment on board • All Gratuities on board
- Escorted rail travel from Nice to London
- All transfers • Full ABTA financial protection

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## Mamma Mia Party

Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel, Isle of Wight - Over 50s only



Friday, February 25, 2011

Join us for a party where the name of the game is fun. We're rekindling the 70s &amp; 80s when Abba's songs were on everyone's lips.

**PRICE INCLUDES:** FREE drinks from 3.30pm to 11pm Friday, 12noon to 11pm Saturday & Sunday. Includes house beers & spirits, house wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea & coffee • Dinners & Breakfasts • Mamma Mia movie screening • Abba Tribute Band • Variety entertainment • En-suite Ambassador room with TV, tea/coffee tray - upgrades available • Leisure facilities: Indoor pool & sauna • Return Car Ferry

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## Mamma Mia Party

Warner Bodelwyddan Castle, North Wales - Over 50s only



Friday, March 25, 2011

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ABTA Y0291

## Stowaways hidden in truck full of soup

A GROUP of would-be illegal immigrants were found by sniffer dogs before they could enter the country.

Nine foreign nationals were detected by the UK Border Agency (UKBA) dogs in lorries waiting to cross the Channel to Dover from Calais.

On the morning of Saturday, January 15, UKBA officers checking vehicles bound for Dover, examined a Portuguese registered freight vehicle with a Portuguese driver.

A specialist body detection dog alerted his handlers to the presence of some unexpected passengers in the back of the vehicle.

Officers then boarded the trailer and found two women and a man, all Eritrean, hiding among the load of soup.

Another group of soup stowaways were found by a UKBA dog at Calais on Tuesday, January 4.

Officers searched the Latvian vehicle and found six Eritreans, four male and two female, hiding among the load of dehydrated Knorr soup.

On both occasions, the stowaways were removed from the lorries before being handed over to French Frontier Police.

Both vehicles were allowed to continue their journey to the UK, but the drivers and haulage companies may now each be liable for a fine of up to £2,000 per stowaway if they are unable to prove they took steps to secure the vehicles.

Carole Upshall, UK Border Agency director for South and Europe, said: "Having UK Border Agency officers based in France and Belgium means we can check vehicles before they cross the channel and stop would-be illegal immigrants setting foot in the UK."

# 'Disappointing' increase in most serious crimes

BURGLARIES, robberies and sex and drug offences are on the rise in Kent, according to latest Home Office statistics.

The figures for the year October, 2009, to September, 2010, suggest police are struggling to get to grips with some of the most serious crimes affecting the county.

Burglaries increased by 2.3 per cent to 12,700, while robberies went up by six per cent to 936, sex offences up by 15.6 per cent to 1,520, and drug offences by 8.5 per cent to 4,310. The number of thefts also rose by 3.8 per cent to 27,900.

### Determined

Deputy Chief Constable Alan Pughsley said: "We have seen a continual decrease in burglaries over a number of years in Kent, so this small increase is disappointing but we are determined to bring the figures back down."

"We will continue to relentlessly target those responsible for burglaries in Kent in the coming months. The increase in the number of drugs offences recorded actually highlights our commitment to detecting and dismantling not only organised crime groups involved in the cultivation, production and trafficking of drugs, but also individuals who peddle drugs in our communities."

Despite the upward trend in the most serious offences, overall crime in Kent has fallen by 3.9 per cent to a total of 108,000.

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

This includes reductions in violent crime – including knife and gun offences – as well as in criminal damage and offences against vehicles.

Mr Pughsley said: "We have seen an overall reduction in crime over the past four years and these latest crime statistics are encouraging.

"But they also show us where there is room to continue our hard work and bring more criminals to justice. We will continue to tackle crime and disorder in Kent, keeping it one of the safest places in the UK."

Meanwhile, police have also revealed how one in three motorists stopped as part of a month-long Christmas drink-drive campaign either failed or refused a breath test.

Officers stopped 563 drivers between December 1 and New Year's Day, of which 171 were arrested. This compares with 1,397 stopped the year before, of which 195 were arrested.

Insp Paul Sellwood said: "It's clear to me that most motorists heeded our warnings not to drive in bad weather. However, the drink drivers chose to ignore this advice as a third of those routinely stopped by police were arrested."

"Drink-drivers are clearly the motorists taking the risks. Kent Police takes a zero-tolerance approach to those who flout the law, and will continue to target drink and drug drivers throughout the year."



**BANG TO RIGHTS:** Kent Police say they are determined to 'relentlessly target' burglars after crime increased

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# yourlocalinterview

## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SARAH MARMONT



**Q & A**

Sara Marmont runs a slimming club in Faversham and Canterbury. She talked to Jill Hurst about the satisfaction she gets from helping people to lose weight and helping them learn to stay that way

**Q** Tell us a little bit about you.

**A** I'm a 30-year-old personal wellness coach and independent Herbalife distributor, working part-time around my full time job as a service technician. My Herbalife business is into its fourth year, helping people to lose weight, gain weight, maintain a healthy weight, helping people find more energy and vitality and of course sports nutrition.

**Q** What's the 12 week community weight loss challenge?

**A** I started Faversham Arriba Wellness Club in April 2009 to run the 12 week community weight loss challenges and extended to the Canterbury areas last year.

The community weight loss challenge is a health and nutrition course, at a cost of £39, where people can learn how to eat healthily and lose weight permanently. The biggest loser at the end of the challenge can win up to £300 based on a percentage of their original weight. Second prize is up to £200 and third prize up to £100, dependant on class size.

**Q** What's different about the challenge?

**A** Every participant has a personal one-to-one appointment with me so I can help them identify their weaknesses and put a plan together that they can commit to.

We do weekly weigh, measure and full body

composition analysis. Each week we cover a different topic, such as why we need to drink water, the importance of fibre, personal protein requirements etc. Participants can learn to make healthy choices for themselves for long term results and of course for their families too. Plus we have lots of fun, weekly prizes and quizzes in a great community atmosphere while making great friends.

**Q** Why did you start the challenges?

**A** I decided to run the challenges to be able to help more people with health and nutrition. In the past I have concentrated primarily on helping clients use Herbalife programmes on a one-to-one basis, however, we noticed a gap in the market place as people wanted the support and expertise of a Herbalife distributor, without necessarily purchasing the Herbalife programmes.

By running the challenges as a non-profit making enterprise, I can afford to help and support everyone in a group environment no matter how they choose to lose weight. All I ask is that they learn from the nutritional education, this is my way of giving back to the community.

We are not a weigh and go club, we concentrate on nutritional education and recognise each little step of achievement. Every participant's weight and measurements are kept private, with no naming and shaming. We educate

cate to make little changes for results that last, so the information can be taken home to make the whole family healthier.

**Q** Why do people get fat?

**A** Busy lifestyles make it too easy to go for fast food. We're not as active as we once were and combined with a lack of education, most of my clients believe they are eating healthily but too much can still be detrimental to your health. Simply put, we don't drink enough water or eat enough healthy sources of protein or fruit and vegetables.

**Q** So what's the secret to success?

**A** Making little changes, drinking more water and being more active can make all the difference to reaching and maintaining a healthy weight. Learning to read and understand food labels can help as many people focus on low in fat, but it's often high in sugar.

**Q** How can people get find out more?

**A** If anyone would like to know more about joining a challenge or becoming an Arriba leader then they can call Sara on 01795 532201 or see [www.arribaclassleaders.co.uk](http://www.arribaclassleaders.co.uk) or [www.arribafaversham.co.uk](http://www.arribafaversham.co.uk).

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**JACKIE** young 49, dark hair, size 12, seeks male for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356149

**LADY** late 50's, tall, blonde, green eyes, seeks male with GSOH for days out, quality and fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357747

**FUN** loving female, 47, kind, caring, honest, likes meals out, pubs, cinema, cooking, seeks male, 39-49 for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357439

**LATE** 20's female seeking older male. Call to hear exactly what I'm like and looking for. I can meet anywhere in London at any time. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356935

**ATTRACTIVE** lady, curly and fun, looking for an uncomplicated fun only discrete relationship, after work etc., any area London. Discretion assured and expected pls Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356991

**SOUTH** London Lady, full figure with long hair, curves in all the right places. WLTM male of any age for fun, friendship and more Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356989

**FEMININE** lady who knows how to treat her man sees strong minded male to care for, any area London/Surrey/Kent Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356985

**BUBBLY** outgoing nurse, (I love my uniform), fancy meeting up North London for some fun loving fun Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356983

**FUN** loving student, 21yrs, seeks male of any age for fun in London, can travel and accommodate, I love a risk and having fun Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356981

**FOREIGN** beauty, long, long hair, 20's yrs, seeks older male who can spoil someone like me. London area. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356987

**ADORABLE** black female, 37, slim, affable, enjoys music, reading, theatre, laughter, nature, seeks genuine gent, 37-49 who is caring, N/S and loves near London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333815

**ROCKFELLER** 38, medium build, FICKELLYER, medium build, very funny, bubbly, likes conversation, seeks male for good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353359

**SINGLE** mum, 5ft, 38, seeks genuine guy for good times, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356585

**38YR** old single mom, bubbly, curvy, seeks genuine guy for romance, good life and good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334777

**CONFIDENT** young female who knows what she wants out of life, looking for open minded, outgoing male for adult conversations/meets. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356153

**BEV** petite and trendy with a nice figure, solvent, animal friendly and looking for soul mate up for lots of fun. Age/looks unimportant. ACA Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No:

**JACKIE** young 49, dark hair, size 12, seeks male for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356149

I might be 47 but am certainly over the hill yet! Attractive and looking for a good reason to get back in shape. Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356147

**PETITE** professional black lady seeks broadminded white male of any age to share the finer things in life. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357161

**BROADMINDED** young 22yrs old female, loves all sorts of things, seeks male any age. Looks/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353417

**LOVELY** lady, 48, beautiful curves, many interests, just wants to meet an honest decent guy and make him happy. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353419

**BERYL** 70 plus, 5ft 6ins, slim, fair hair, green eyes, seeks gent who likes travel, theatre, sports, meals out. Hampshire. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353165

**SENSUAL** female, 32yrs, long blonde hair, varied interests WLTM older guy, looks unimportant, for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357133

**YOUNG** looking, slim petite lady 42ys seeks man of any age to spend 2011 with. ACA you won't be disappointed. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357131

**ASIAN** Black seeks mature white male for discreet fun, you won't be sorry I know how to treat my man. Any area London Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356997

Hi I'm Katie, new to the single scene and with no ties, 35, curvy feminine, beautiful, well educated and an all round good catch, so don't hang about. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356131

I am a 41yr old interesting but lonely lady, tactile, feminine and romantic looking to meet my Mr Right to share special close moments. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356129

**GOOD** time girl searching for her good time boy. Single nurse 33, looking to raise the temperature of fun, down to earth male. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356127

**CLARE** seeks N/S, genuine female, 24-36 for friendship. Bognor Regis. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353838

**FEMALE** seeks white/Asian mature gent, broadminded and sensible, who can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355835

**HAPPY** fun loving, attractive, intelligent, educated, curly, female, late 40's, WLTM caring, sincere man interested in theatre, reading, arts, nature and walks for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356613

**INDEPENDENT** nurse, late forties, looks much younger, if you are looking for some fun and enjoyment call me now and I will tell you what I'm looking for. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355777

**CURVY** blue eyed brunette, attractive and fit. I'm a young looking and active 43yrs, varied interests. WLTM mature male with GSoh who knows how to treat a lady, 40 - 70ys. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355775

**CRYSTAL** 5ft 6ins, long dark hair, hazel eyes, olive skin, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383374

**PRETTY** black lady, 39, 36G bust, 5ft 3ins, likes reading, cinema, meals out, nature, travel, theatre, seeks tall, slim, professional white male, 50-55 who is honest, genuine, loving, funny and spiritual. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355311

**LADY** 44, GSOH, short, curly, dark hair, seeks good guy for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355391

**TALL** blue eyed blonde, curly and fun, loves dancing, seeks tall well built guy to share happy times and see what the future brings. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354651

**WARM** hearted female, curves in all the right places, new to area, seeks intelligent male to share interests, friendship and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353419

**LOVELY** lady, 48, beautiful curves, many interests, just wants to meet an honest decent guy and make him happy. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353417

**SHY** curly blonde, 21, likes R&B, clubbing, meals out/in, seeks dark, good looking, slim guy who knows how to press the right buttons. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352523

**BEAUTIFUL** slim blonde, big blonde eyes, 39, kind and gentle nature, seeks similar kind male for quality/fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352523

**BERYL** 70 plus, 5ft 6ins, slim, fair hair, green eyes, seeks gent who likes travel, theatre, sports, meals out. Hampshire. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353165

**ATTRACTIVE** female, 38, blue eyes, blonde hair, WLTM nice looking slim/well built man to share life, love and special times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355241

**RUGGED** fit, 42yr old white male, seeks black lady, 30-42 for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356973

**STEVE** 60, 6ft 2ins, grey hair, N/S, solvent, small business, varied interests, likes modern red wine, seeks professional white male, 35-45, athletic, 5ft 11ins-6ft. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353897

**FRIENDLY** male, tall 59, grey hair, blue eyes, hardworking, likes boats, metal work, old cars, seeks tall female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383752

**MALE** 50 plus, sexy, passionate, energetic, seeks lady wanting exciting friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357613

**DAVID** 61, proud of it, fanciable, poetic, likes participation, disciplined, adventurous. Croydon. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357017

**GRAHAM** 55, 5ft 11ins, dark hair, brown eyes, medium build, N/S, friendly, reliable, genuine, GSoh, easygoing, honest, tactile, likes most things, seeks attractive, slim-medium, N/S female, 45-55. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357223

**PROFESSIONAL** male, 63, assertive, many interests, seeks curvy, non assertive lady for special relationship that offers something different. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357723

**PAKISTAN** male 50, 6ft, medium build, seeks Pakistani/Indian lady, 50-55. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357921

**FUN** loving lady, adventurous with unusual interests. Seeks spontaneous male. Call me if you want to have some fun. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355777

**KEITH** 57, tall, likes bowling, paranormal, seeks kind, honest, loyal female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357651

**CURVY** blue eyed blonde, attractive and fit. I'm a young looking and active 43yrs, varied interests. WLTM mature male with GSoh who knows how to treat a lady, 40 - 70ys. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355775

**HANDSOME** successful male, 5ft 9ins, tanned, educated, solvent, good lifestyle, seeks attractive lady for friendship, fun and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357391

I'M 36yrs old, blue eyed, slim brunet seeking an older male, single dads welcome, pls call if that's what you are looking for. I promise to call you back. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355239

**TALL** leggy lady, curly, caring and genuine, solvent with own home. If you are a genuine lady I would like to meet you, looks/age unimportant. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355757

**KIND** professional clean shaven gent, sought by petite, attractive lady, 51 for discreet daytime relationship. West Sussex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382982

**TINY** attractive fun loving lady, likes to cook romantic meals, music and dancing. WLTM medium build likeminded male for loving LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352119

**BLACK** female, likes meals out, theatre, seeks solvent white male, 50-65 for fun, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357411

**GENUINE** male, 50, OHAC, GSoh, seeks female 30-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357309

**OUTGOING** dark haired beauty, curves but definitely in all the right places, fit and active seeks sincere male for good times. Maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352095

**RED** haired rock chick, loves fast cars, seeking tall, dark, well groomed male for fun in the fast lane, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355241

**TAKE** a chance on me. Warm, sincere, young at heart, N/S 64y old widower, 5ft 9ins, medium build, seeks sophisticated lady for loving relationship. London area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357525

**AVERAGE** looking white male, seeks black lady for conversation and company. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383714

**SILVER** fox. Wealthy, attractive, 44yrs old male, seeks female to pamper for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357445

**MALE** 53, good looking, Asian, seeks female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357127

**HANG** on to yourself! Stylish male, 5ft 5ins, likes music, film, art, seeks attractive, shapely female, 28-38 for enjoyable times, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356889

**5FT** 11ins male, medium build, seeks female for fun, friendship and LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383804

**TALL** attractive white male, 48, considerate, easygoing, likes arts, theatre, Oriental culture, seeks female of any age with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355679

**YOUNG** 40yr old dark haired male, well built, romantic, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355689

**ADRIAN** 41, attractive, blond hair, blue eyes, likes socialising, nights out, cinema, seeks female for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378672

**PETER** 43, tall, dark, likes sports, music, cinema, nights in, seeks friendly, tactile female for occasional meetings. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357451

**SINGLE** unassertive male, mid 40's, seeks assertive male of any age for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356269

**BLUE** eyed male, 60's, slim, active, 5ft 5ins, solvent, likes socialising, drives, travel, seeks petite female for LTR. Burgess Hill. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350549

**FRIENDLY** male, 54, looks younger, medium build, N/S, seeks male, 25-60 for discreet relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383426

**ROY** 42, medium build, GSoh, average looks, brown hair, 5ft 8ins, seeks similar male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355997

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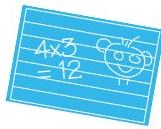
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## BREAK TIME

### National survey is watching the birdie

THE tenth annual RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch is under way. The national survey will see hundreds of schoolchildren count the birds they see in their playgrounds.

Pupils from Sandown School in Deal, White Cliffs Primary and St Richard's Primary in Dover, Capelle-Ferne Primary and St Martins School in Folkestone, and Capel Brownies will be taking part. The count, which began on Monday and will run to Friday, February 4, it encourages children and teachers to learn about the birds that share their school grounds.



Last year, 55 schools in the county took part in the survey with 1,800 Kent pupils counting birds. The survey helps the RSPB build a picture of birdlife and the changes in population.

In Kent last year, the blue tit was the most common visitor to playgrounds, with blackbirds second and black-headed gulls third.

Since its launch in 2002, the survey has grown in popularity and last year the RSPB introduced the Little Schools' Birdwatch for the under fives.

Sophie McCallum of the RSPB said: "As well as contributing to our understanding of the changes in bird numbers, Big Schools' Birdwatch does a fantastic job of inspiring children about nature."

"All you need to do is watch and count the birds in your school grounds for one hour, then send one set of results back to the RSPB telling us what you saw."

# Lloyd Webber calls tune for college's £1m music project

A WORLD renowned cellist will be opening a new music school in Dover.

Julian Lloyd Webber will be at Dover College to open the £1million project.

Lloyd Webber, 62, launched his career after winning a scholarship to the Royal College of Music at the age of 16.

He went on to become one of the world's most renowned cellists and musicians.

Following in his footsteps is Dover College graduate Elspeth Robertson, age 16, who received a scholarship from the Royal College of Music and will be performing at the grand opening of the music school.

Dover College headmaster Stephen Jones said: "Our plan is to significantly increase the number of pupils taking music lessons and we will be adding to our music scholarships.

"It's all about encouraging youngsters to sing and play an instrument."

The brother of composer Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, Julian will open the Tallis Music School at Dover College on Saturday.

The hall is named after Thomas Tallis, a composer born in Kent around 1505, and widely considered the most important composer of Tudor times.

■ BY MATHEW BEECH

His first known appointment to a musical position was as organist of Dover Priory in 1530-31, which is now Dover College.

He wrote The Lamentations of Jeremiah, and If Ye Love Me, which will be performed on the day by the Dover College school choir.

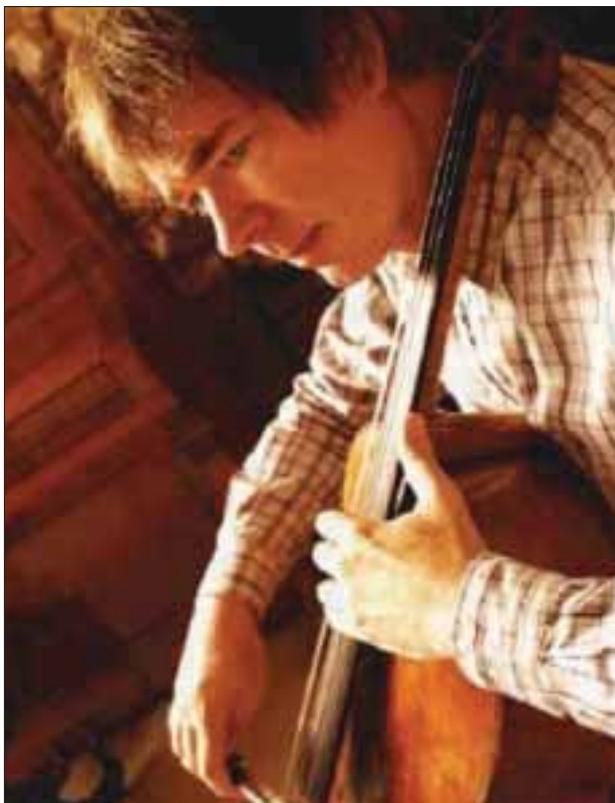
Dover College will be organising music days in March, inviting local primary schools to participate in a music lesson and then perform a concert for parents to attend.

The college runs a chapel choir, madrigal group, choral society, orchestra, jazz band and a number of smaller ensembles, with plenty of opportunities for pupils to perform at any level and in any style.

Director of music Paul Young said: "Dover College is always on the lookout for potential musicians among our pupils and from outside.

"Scholarships are awarded annually to those who show potential or have gained a sufficiently high standard on their instrument or voice.

"Naturally, we hope such improved facilities will encourage others to want to join us and become part of our musical environment here at Dover College."



GUEST: Julian Lloyd Webber will attend the opening of Dover College's music school

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# your letters



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**EMAIL:** Email your letters to the editor, Dave Mairs: dave.mairs@kosmedia.co.uk

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Sally Hall - Barking Mad

## Forum meeting to discuss the Open

I would like to invite your readers to attend the next meeting of the Sandwich Area Neighbourhood Forum on Tuesday, February 1.

Refreshments will be available an hour before the meeting starts; this provides a chance to meet local councillors from county, district and town and look at the exhibitions on display. You can also talk to a representative from the Dover District Community Safety Partnership. The topic for this meeting is the Open Golf Championship which is coming to Sandwich in July. This is a chance to find out about the work partners are doing to ensure that everything is in place for this event, which is likely to attract 200,000 visitors and bring a multi-million boost to the area. Members of the Open

Golf Project Executive will be present to discuss the preparations and how the event and traffic will be managed and to answer any questions you may have.

Anne Charman  
Community Engagement Manager  
Kent County Council  
01622 696389

## Not us to blame for government mess

I salute the Swiss compliance banker whose complaints about tax evasion went ignored by his bosses for years. It's ironic that whistle-blowers are punished not praised.

Facts are more dire than fiction in post-modern England. I can't understand why we are unfairly made financially liable for all the errors and excesses of government.

Our legislators are responsible for the mess, yet they are the ones milking us dry and throwing us on the scrap heap. In their pursuit of raiding our wallets, government has recruited armies of bureaucrats including the doctors and nurses who prefer mismanaging the NHS to caring for patients.

For example the Care Quality Commission found Bexley failed in 12 out of 15 aspects of stroke care.

Bexley Council Social Services was criticised by a carer on Talk Radio, yet they will soon be in charge of public health as well as raising revenue and licensing.

Rita Grootendorst  
Campaigner for affordable living

## Some still think it's ok to text and drive

If a relative or friend told you they had been updating their Facebook page while driving, you'd think they were mad – yet sadly, this kind of behaviour is becoming increasingly common.

Making phone calls, texting, logging on to the Internet and tweeting while driving aren't the only stupid things that drivers have been spotted doing. We've had members of the public contact us to say they've seen motorists trying to eat yoghurts, applying lipstick while doing 70mph, filming passengers using their mobiles, even shaving while driving.

It's incredibly worrying that people still don't take seriously the dangers posed by using a phone while driving, or doing anything else which prevents them from concentrating on the road. In the last three years, four people have

died and nearly 60 have been injured on Kent's roads in mobile phone-related crashes.

Studies have proved that using a hand-held mobile phone while driving causes a distraction, impairs your control of the vehicle and reduces your ability to react to what is happening around you. Research has also shown that you are far more likely to have a crash if you use your mobile while driving.

Unfortunately, there are still people who think that using a phone won't distract them. That's why the Kent & Medway Safety Camera Partnership has launched a campaign to remind drivers that our safety camera vans will be out enforcing mobile phone and also seat belt laws, as well as speed.

If you're still unsure about what's legal and what isn't, visit our website, [www.kmscp.org](http://www.kmscp.org).

We'd also like to hear readers' thoughts about reckless driver behaviour by encouraging them to write to this newspaper.

Perhaps by starting a debate on this issue, motorists who continue to flout the law will finally get the message that every time they pick up that phone, they are putting lives at risk – including their own.

Katherine Barrett, Communications Officer  
Kent & Medway Safety Camera Partnership

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## Marquis named as a real rising star

A TOP restaurant near Dover has been awarded a 'rising star' award in the annual Michelin guide.

The accolade is given to eateries in line for a Michelin star in the future, giving the Marquis at Alkham – which is also a luxury hotel and wedding venue – added incentive to maintain its high standards.

Five Kent restaurants kept hold of their one-star ratings in this year's guide but there were no additions to the county's elite. They are the West House in Biddenden, Apicus in Cranbrook, Read's in Faversham, the Sportsman in Whitstable, and Chapter One in Bromley.

Meanwhile, the Number One B&B in Deal has been voted the fifth best bed-and-breakfast in the world in the annual Travellers' Choice Hotel Awards.

## Army of workers ready for potholes

KENT County Council says it is about to launch an army of specialist tarmac firms on a month-long campaign to fix 'safety-critical' potholes across the county caused by the winter ice.

The Kent small and medium-sized engineering firms are working alongside Kent Highway Services gangs in a £1 million drive to fix the potholes.

KCC leader Cllr Paul Carter said: "We know snow and ice cause damage to the roads and we are absolutely determined to fix the potholes."

KCC is also launching a drive to recruit tarmac firms for a repair campaign in the summer – when weather conditions are more favourable.

# League tables give an 'unfair' picture of school performance

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

EDUCATION chiefs in Kent have asked the Government to take special needs provision into account before publishing potentially damaging school league tables.

Secondary schools that contain a high number of children with special educational needs (SEN) often achieve lower than average GCSE results, and in some cases less than the National Challenge target of 30 per cent of pupils score five A\* to C grades including English and maths.

Headteachers say this creates a negative perception of schools that in reality are helping SEN pupils obtain far better grades than would usually be expected of them.

Kent County Council has now written to education secretary Michael Gove asking the Government to come up with a fairer system.

One school that suffers from the current arrangements is the Malling School in East Malling, which has the largest SEN unit in the county and is included in the National Challenge scheme due to only 26 per cent of pupils achieving five A\* to C grades including English and maths.

"Significant pressures are put on you if you fall below the 30 per cent target but we are being judged unfairly," said principal Carl Roberts. "Without the SEN unit we'd have hit 34 per cent last year."

Teachers' work with special needs pupils is ignored



EDUCATION SECRETARY: Michael Gove

for education Cllr Sarah Hohler claims the system provides disincentives for the development of further mainstream SEN provision.

She also calls for the Government to come up with a new way of judging a school's achievements as part of a forthcoming Green Paper on the subject.

Gravesend-based education adviser Peter Read said he felt sorry for the schools, which he claims may never reach the National Challenge benchmark under the current system.

He added: "The Malling School should clearly be doing better than that. It's just another factor that makes league tables not credible, but even Ofsted places more emphasis on exam performance so schools with SEN units are being penalised across the board."

"The only answer I can see offhand is that the results of mainstream pupils be counted separately to those of SEN children."

A spokeswoman for the Department for Education said it would be replying to the KCC letter "in due course".

She added: "Recognising the achievements and progress of all children and young people – including those with special educational needs and disabilities – is an important priority for the Government. The forthcoming Green Paper on SEN will be looking at how we could report the progress of the lowest-attaining 20 per cent of students in the performance tables."

"We will be seeking views as part of the consultation that follows its publication."

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## IN MY VIEW



By Chris Britcher

## Dancing on the hope of a fall

DANCING ON ICE (ITV1)

ONCE upon a time, the post-Christmas TV blues were relieved by the arrival of Celebrity Big Brother.

For Channel 4 it was the perfect dessert to the festive schedules – fresh, live content throughout January, which advertisers could really indulge in and viewers engaged with as they chomped through the last of the family box of Roses.

It made money, the viewing figures were strong and the UK media loved nothing more than splashing the exploits all over its pages day in, day out.

In short it was a success. But 2011 dawns as a Big Brother-free zone. The concept shelved.

Which means people with an appetite for reality TV starring celebrities you have to stretch your mind to recognise, is there and seeking an outlet.

Enter, then, Dancing on Ice. Its premise is simple – take famous faces, stick them on the ice, see if they can dance. Viewers vote them out and Torvill and Dean teach them. It's been bubbling away for a few years now, but finally it is out there without competition.

Unlike BB, it's on once a week, rather than daily, and the chance of hearing a bit of swearing or gossip is as likely as buxom co-presenter Holly Willoughby being allowed to show the fun she does have in her, as seen on her stint with X Factor spin-off the Xtra Factor.

So we have the very middle class Phillip Schofield as anchor alongside our Olympic skating duo, and a range of stars for whom the word 'famous' is perhaps at most an abstract concept, rather than an accurate adjective.

Yet it remains compulsive viewing for the very reason ice skating probably captures such a large audience during the Olympic Games. It's not all about the poise and beauty of a couple cutting through the ice. It's simple. It's hoping they both fall over and end up in a crumpled mess. An even split in appeal, I grant you, but the truth nonetheless.

Normally, of course, it's the choice of celebrities which maketh the show. And producers have not been daft here. The starting line-up covered all bases and all demographics. There was Angela Rippon for those who remember her in her prime (not that it did her any good, being kicked out in the first week), there's Kerry Katona for the tabloids, and there's Radio 1's Comedy Dave – the obligatory person from a mainstream breakfast show, to ensure daily plugs. GMTV replacement Daybreak is clearly so unloved, it is no longer a first port of call.

It doesn't come with the punch and addiction potential of Big Brother, nor does it have that easy office conversation-starter of the X Factor, but it does remain strangely compelling viewing. Granted, I've never heard of the bulk of people on it, but there is something deliciously easy Sunday night viewing about it which is hard to resist.

## CINEMA

## BLACK SWAN (15)

NATALIE Portman collected a coveted Golden Globe award as best actress last weekend for her tour-de-force portrayal of an emotionally fragile ballerina in Black Swan.

She deserves to win the Oscar on February 27 for this career-defining performance that required 10 months of gruelling physical preparation before the cameras even started rolling. All that incredible will and discipline in the dance studio certainly pays off – not once do we doubt that Portman could perform the demanding solos from Swan Lake that punctuate this psychological drama.

The actress powerfully conveys the disparity between her character's physical strength and grace, and her mental frailty when insecurities and jealousy steadily gnaw away at her self-confidence.

Director Darren Aronofsky gracefully pirouettes between reality and fantasy as he joins Portman on this mesmerising descent into madness. He has plumbed some dark places in his earlier work including Requiem For A Dream, and The Wrestler. He should enjoy even greater success with Black Swan, which puts the actors centre stage but still managed to showcase his directorial brio.

Artistic director Thomas Leroy presides over a ballet company at New York's Lincoln Center, all too aware that his productions have lost their edge.

So he very publicly terminates the services of prima ballerina Beth Macintyre and chooses Nina Sayers (Natalie Portman) as her replacement to lead an erotically charged new staging of Swan Lake.

Nina is technically gifted but struggles to express her emotions on stage, which causes friction with Thomas, who needs Nina to embrace her dark side if she is ever to play the Black Swan. Soon after, sensual ballerina Lily is cast as understudy to the lead role and Nina feels threatened, as if the new girl is trying to usurp her.

Harangued by her mother, a former dancer who gave up everything to raise a family, Nina wrestles with fear and paranoia, teetering on the brink of an emotional breakdown.

Black Swan skilfully draws together elements of Aronofsky's previous films and stokes the tension as we become immersed in this tale of delusions and dreams.

Portman's fearless lead performance is complemented by some monstrous supporting performances, too.

Sequences from Swan Lake are dazzlingly choreographed to Clint Mansell's soundtrack (heavily inspired by Tchaikovsky's haunting score), making the ballet accessible and thrilling to audiences who are unfamiliar with the story of cursed Odette.

While the heroine of the ballet struggles to take flight, Aronofsky's film and his leading lady soar.

## THE DILEMMA (12A)

THE truth hurts... almost as much as seeing the kernel of a good idea poorly executed on the big screen.

The Dilemma is a curious amalgam of heart-tugging drama and buddy comedy that lurches from class to crass.

On the one hand, screenwriter Allan Loeb tests the bonds of brotherly love as he puts characters through the emotional wringer, and Oscar-winning director Ron Howard elicits strong performances from Jennifer Connelly and Winona Ryder as the women caught in a web of lies.

Yet, every time the film strikes a chord, we are subjected to a ludicrous scene of idiocy involving Vince Vaughn and Kevin James that begs serious questions about why two intelligent women would ever entertain the advances of these buffoons.

Ronny (Vince Vaughn) and Nick (Kevin James) have been best friends since college and now work together at B&V Engine Design, the company they both own.

They hope to pitch their state-of-the-art electric engine design to executives at a major company. While Nick works tirelessly to iron out gremlins in his design, Ronny frets about

**BLACK SWAN:** Natalie Portman dances for her life in this disturbingly moving film



proposing to his girlfriend, talented chef Beth (Jennifer Connelly).

During preparations to go down on bended knee, Ronny makes a shocking discovery: Nick's wife (Winona Ryder) is cheating.

Therefore Ronny faces an agonising decision: Keep the truth from his best friend until the automotive company has signed on the dotted line or tell Nick everything, aggravate his stomach ulcer and plunge the engine design project into chaos.

The Dilemma has all the makings of an intriguing dissection of male relationships, posing the question: What would we do in Ronny's position?

Connelly and Ryder play their roles straight, while almost all of the male actors milk laughs where they can. Changes in tone are jarring and by the time Howard draws proceedings to a close by uniting the characters in one location, we're secretly hoping the various relationships implode.

Of course, loneliness and regret do not sit well with audiences and so The Dilemma serves up simplistic, sugar-coated escapism.

## MORNING GLORY (12A)

LADEN with one-liners, Morning Glory is a frothy comedy based around a shambolic TV breakfast show called Daybreak.

Scriptwriter Aline Brosh McKenna hasn't been drawing inspiration from the critically lambasted replacement for GMTV.

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## Shappi laughs about her new way of life

COMEDIAN and best-selling author Shappi Khorsandi is heading to Kent for two shows.

An Evening with Shappi Khorsandi sees the star of BBC shows Live at the Apollo and Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow, discussing her new status as a single mother.

The new show reputedly reveals a more contemplative side as she muses over coming to terms with the lifestyle changes this upheaval brings.

Khorsandi's autobiographical book, a Beginner's Guide to Acting English, was published to great critical success.

She plays the Brook Theatre, Chatham, on Monday, February 7, call 01634 338338 or see [www.medway.gov.uk/theatres](http://www.medway.gov.uk/theatres) to book.

She's then at the Quarterhouse, Folkestone, on May 28, see [www.quarterhouse.co.uk](http://www.quarterhouse.co.uk) or call 01303 858500 for tickets.

# Make the most of your big weekend of free attractions

THE website for My Kent Big Weekend – the annual giveaway of free tickets to the county's top attractions – goes live on Monday.

But organisers Visit Kent are reassuring residents they have plenty of time to choose from the thousands of tickets available to more than 100 of Kent's top attractions.

You will have three weeks to visit the website [www.mykentbigweekend.co.uk](http://www.mykentbigweekend.co.uk) so there's ample opportunity to bag tickets to sites ranging from hidden gems to internationally renowned cathedrals and castles.

Once the website closes, tickets will be allocated, by ballot, in readiness for the My Kent Big Weekend on Saturday and Sunday, March 26 and 27.

The initiative has grown out of the Kent Big Day Out, which was first launched by Visit Kent, the county's tourism champions, five years ago.

The aim is to raise awareness of all the attractions and destinations across the county that welcome 44 million visitors every year, contributing more than £2.5 billion to the local economy.

Sandra Matthews-Marsh, chief executive at Visit Kent, said: "We are now ready to have a whole weekend dedicated to celebrating our world-class tourism, leisure and hospitality businesses. Two days will enable even more people to take advantage of the free tickets and explore the many new and established attractions on their doorstep."



COME AND SEE: Penshurst Place is one of the venues opening its doors

"Last year we did experience IT problems with so many people trying to log on to our website at the same time. So this year Visit Kent is following in the footsteps of such popular ticket events as Strictly Come Dancing and Wimbledon

"We are giving people more time to look through all the attractions and destinations welcoming My Kent Big Weekend visitors. Once ticket registration has finished, we will hold a ballot and people will only be allocated tickets for attractions they have chosen for the day they have selected."

Two free My Kent Big Weekend tickets

are available per Kent household and anyone without access to the internet can register for tickets at their local visitor information centre. See the website for details.

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## The White Hart

THE White Hart is a family-run pub and restaurant whose new landlords are determined to restore it to its former glory.

All of the food is handled and prepared with care to produce exceptionally fresh and delicious food. Bread is baked daily, and there is pasta and cured hams, excellent steaks from the char-grill, an a carte menu and Sunday roast. Booking is advisable.

In the bar you will find an excellent selection of real ales from all over Kent, including the Hopdaemon brewery, Shepheard Neame and many more. There are also continental lagers, fine wines and Champagnes.

The decadent desserts are all freshly made, along with a selection of fresh coffee that provide the ideal way to finish any meal.

Steak Night every Tuesday has proven to be very successful, and the head chef, James Pearce, specialises in Italian cuisine.

Owner Ben Wilson had a well-established public house for nine years in Hythe, which he left in 2006, when the opportunity arose to take on the lease of a public house which had not been trading for two years.

Ben and his partner felt that the potential for a successful business could not be missed.

There is a garden for customers, and a new outside bar and dining area is also planned for later this year.

Food is available from noon to 3pm Monday to Saturday, and 6pm to 9pm, Monday to Thursday; 6pm to 9.30pm Friday and Saturday and noon to 6pm on Sunday.

The White Hart, 71 High Street, Hythe, CT21 5AJ. Telephone: 01303 263121



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## Taste of the Med, close to seafront

### ■ Don Giovanni

DON Giovanni is one of the leading Italian restaurants in East Kent, and is a great place to try if diners want a little Mediterranean experience.

Close to the Leas and the seafront in Folkestone, it is a warm and cosy venue with a Latin ambience, which is much appreciated by discerning customers.

New features of the popular eatery include a special regional menu which is available every month, from Sundays to Thursdays.

This is a specially-prepared menu from one selected area of Italy, so diners can become aware of the tastes that exist across the country, which has an international reputation for

culinary excellence.

A selection of chef's specials are available every day, including fish and pasta dishes. The restaurant is still continuing with its year-round popular dishes, which include excellent fish choices such as grilled sardines served on a bed of lemons.

The chef is not afraid to experiment with his recipes, and that is one reason that variety continues to be the spice of life at Don Giovanni.

The restaurant is now taking bookings for Valentine's Day, where the chef is promising something extra special alongside the excellent menu selection.

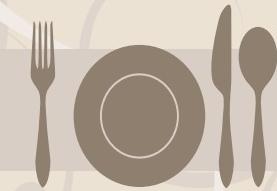
The venue is open from noon to 2.30pm, and 6.30pm to 10.30pm from Monday to Saturday, and 6.30pm to 10pm on Sundays.

**Don Giovanni, 18 Bouverie Road West, Folkestone. Telephone 01303 850962**

To advertise in this section

please call

**Hayley on 01303 817115**



### CHEF RECOMMENDS

#### Don Giovanni

Starter: Deep-fried smoked mozzarella served with garlic mayonnaise  
Main course: Rump of lamb, served with a red wine and mushroom sauce  
Dessert: Caramelised panna cotta  
Telephone: 01303 850962

#### Prince Albert

Main course: Lamb shank served with seasonal vegetables and garlic and herb potatoes  
Dessert: Home-made cheesecake  
Telephone: 01304 204272

#### Mama Feelgoods

Starter: Breaded king prawns with a sweet chilli sauce  
Main course: Sirloin steakwich ciabatta with onion marmalade and rocket.  
Dessert: Sticky toffee pudding with vanilla ice-cream  
Telephone: 01227 830830

#### The Grove Ferry

Starter: Apricot and cranberry stilton cheesecake  
Main course: Slow-braised lamb and mint crumble  
Dessert: Sticky toffee pudding  
Telephone: 01227 860302

#### Martins

Starter: Mediterranean Feta and Rocket Salad with avocado and walnuts and a garlic dressing.  
Main course: Spinach and mushroom parcel with a mascarpone and brie sauce.  
Dessert: Mars Bar gateau  
Telephone: 01227 750304

#### Elvey Farm

Starter: Gravalax with lemon and dill sauce. Main course: Fillet of pork in a wholegrain mustard sauce with seasonal vegetables  
Dessert: Date and ginger sticky toffee pudding with toffee sauce  
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## COVER STORY

# Paul puts on A Different Hat

IT'S hard to resist the temptation to reel off lists of performances, sessions, hits and appearances that Paul Carrack has been involved in.

But when you have contributed to more than 60 albums in your career, the odd inventory is going to have to pop up somewhere.

Described as "the hardest working man in modern music", the former Roxy Music and Squeeze musician will bring his annual 60-date tour to the garden of England this month.

Songs we never tire of hearing are set to follow Paul Carrack around for eternity as Squeeze's Tempted and Mike and the Mechanics' The Living Years remain synonymous with the Yorkshireman.

But as he rolls into Dartford's Orchard Theatre on Tuesday, and Tunbridge Wells' Assembly Hall a day later, Carrack assured me there was to be something very different about this tour.

In October last year, the multi-talented performer released his 15th solo album, *A Different Hat*.

He did so with the help of former Van Morrison drummer Pete Van Hooke as producer, and the pair say they have come up with a really new sound. Maybe that's because they also enlisted the help of musical royalty.

Carrack said: "This album was completely different to anything I have ever done before because we used the Philharmonic Orchestra to back us on the tracks. It was all very new."

Inspired by his recent tours with big bands, Carrack had been considering the challenge of making an orchestral record, yet retaining the intimacy and warmth he is noted for.

Armed with a nine-piece posse of his own, he is now ready to bring his new sound to the UK.

But don't worry, there will still be a few classics thrown in.

Carrack said: "The show is still similar to previous tours in that we have a nine piece band, in which my son Jack plays.

"The group I play with now were already a band when I joined up with them, so there is a great team vibe that you don't always get when using session musicians.

## Balance

"We wanted to keep it all fresh and do new songs, but it is also important to play a few of the big hits for the fans as well. However, this is by no means a nostalgia tour.

"We tried to strike a good balance."

The new album does renew some old classics anyway as Carrack gives his own rendition of Randy Newman's I Think it's Going to Rain Today.

Carrack said: "I am a big fan, it was a suggestion from Peter (Van Hook) and I didn't need my arm twisted!"

Well-loved songs made famous by the likes of Nat King Cole, Gerry and The Pacemakers, Peggy Lee, and The Eagles, also take their place on the 12-track album.

The 59-year-old is known for having an instantly recognisable voice after years as the vocal talent in 80s stalwarts, Mike and The Mechanics. And with more than 40 years of experience behind him surely it would be easy enough to just give anything a bash.

Apparently not, as the ever-progressive Carrack decided his enviable voice needed to change to fit the new record.

He said: "My natural territory is to sing quite loud, but it sounds much richer when I bring my voice down.

"We also found that the lower we made the key, the broader my voice sounded, engendering this intimacy. It's a different technique, it's harder and I couldn't have done this a few years ago. You're learning all the time."

It is now time for one of those lists, as Carrack is able to boast of the likes of The Eagles, Diana Ross, Tom Jones and Jools Holland having used his material. With performances on albums for The Smiths, The

**JOE BILL** catches up with one of the music world's most prolific performers

**DOUBLE DATE:** Paul Carrack will be giving two performances in the county while on his 60-date tour



Pretenders, Elton John and Ringo Starr making up a small register of appreciative artists.

Now, although Carrack has gone on to push his boundaries musically and challenge himself to create new sounds, he has not forgotten about the diehard fans who jump every time they hear he is touring.

He said: "Many people pay to come and watch us every year, and some see us several times on one tour. So of course it is important to play some of the big hits from my time with various bands, as well as solo stuff. We always get a good reaction from Tempted and my big claim to fame, The Living Years."

It would be easy to hang up his plectrums and

let the royalties roll in while Carrack relaxes in his home in Chorley Wood, Hertfordshire.

But just the brief chat I had with him told me it was not in his nature to give up or stop. And the enthusiasm with which he spoke about his tour clearly demonstrated the buzz he gets from being on stage will probably keep him going for many years to come.

He said: "This is my job and it is always good fun to go to work with the guys."

"It is a really good family atmosphere on the tour and it is a pleasure to do this. I guess if it wasn't I would have taken up golf by now."

This addiction to changing and evolving performances is clear to see in *A Different Hat*, as

Carrack takes on the often-performed and difficult to re-invent, Moon River.

The fact that the album closes with an updated rendition of his own song, It Ain't Over, just proves he Paul Carrack is the master of breathing new life into old material.

• **Paul Carrack performs at the Orchard Theatre, Dartford, on Tuesday, January 25, with tickets costing £28.50. Call the Box Office on 01322 220000. He plays again at Tunbridge Wells' Assembly Hall Theatre on Wednesday, January 26, tickets are £27.50. Call the box office on 01892 530613. For more information visit [www.paulcarrack.net](http://www.paulcarrack.net).**



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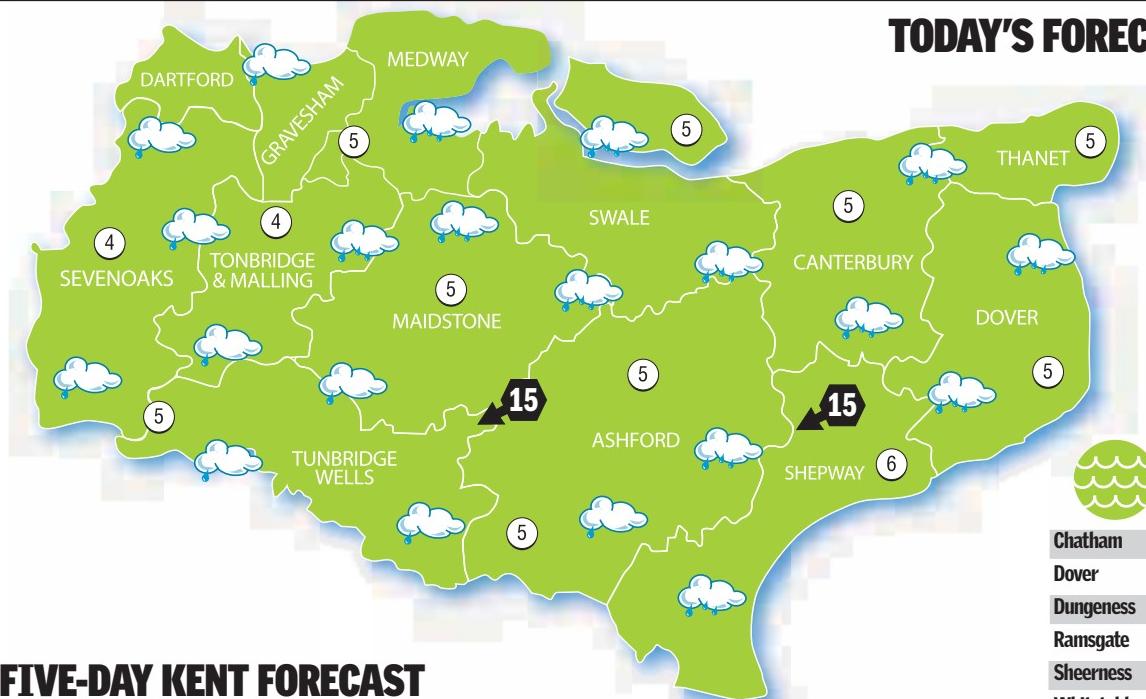
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## TODAY'S FORECAST



### AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	7°C	Madrid	5°C
Athens	13°C	New York	-4°C
Barcelona	6°C	Paris	6°C
Beijing	-3°C	Rome	8°C
Bombay	30°C	Sydney	36°C
Cape Town	28°C	Tenerife	20°C
Cardiff	7°C	Tokyo	5°C
Gibraltar	13°C	Vancouver	7°C
Hong Kong	14°C	Warsaw	-4°C
Las Palmas	21°C	Wellington	15°C

## FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon						
Ashford	8°C	6°C	3°C	2°C	4°C	Dover	7°C	6°C	2°C	2°C	4°C
Canterbury	7°C	6°C	2°C	2°C	4°C	Faversham	8°C	6°C	3°C	3°C	4°C
Chatham	8°C	6°C	3°C	3°C	4°C	Folkestone	7°C	6°C	2°C	2°C	4°C
Dartford	9°C	6°C	3°C	3°C	5°C	Gillingham	8°C	6°C	3°C	3°C	4°C
						Gravesend	9°C	6°C	3°C	3°C	5°C
						Maidstone	8°C	6°C	3°C	3°C	5°C
						Ramsgate	7°C	6°C	2°C	2°C	4°C
						Rochester	8°C	6°C	3°C	3°C	4°C
						Sevenoaks	7°C	4°C	1°C	2°C	3°C
						Sittingbourne	8°C	6°C	3°C	4°C	
						Tonbridge	8°C	5°C	2°C	2°C	4°C
						Tun Wells	8°C	5°C	2°C	2°C	4°C

## KENT'S WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	8:09am 5.1m	Sunday	9:33am 5.1m
Dover	Saturday	6:36am 5.6m	Sunday	8:01am 5.6m
Dungeness	Saturday	6:29am 6.3m	Sunday	7:43am 6.3m
Ramsgate	Saturday	7:06am 4.2m	Sunday	8:31am 4.2m
Sheerness	Saturday	7:57am 4.9m	Sunday	9:21am 4.9m
Whitstable	Saturday	8:00am 4.7m	Sunday	9:26am 4.7m



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# Review

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- Heathrow Airport: 60 miles



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Terms and conditions are available on request and any other loan arrangement must be made through Bloor Homes' recommended Independent Financial Advisor.

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# Looking for a new pad?

Search and find 1000s of Kent homes online

- What houses have been sold in the area
- Look for what schools are in the area
- Look for transport links in the area
- Find the nearest local supermarkets



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The smart way to find a new home in the County



POWERED BY KOS MEDIA

# Make a wise move

Find the ideal home in the right location



What houses have been sold in the area



Look for what schools are in the area



Look for transport links in the area



Find the nearest local supermarkets



Use [www.PropertyforKent.co.uk](http://www.PropertyforKent.co.uk) where you can search through more than 10,000 homes for sale across the county.

Online you can view full property particulars, location map and agents details, plus find out about current house prices in the area, schools, transport links and even where the nearest supermarket is.

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Ramsgate Office  
01843 851777

Cliftonville Office  
01843 230430

Birchington Office  
01843 847999



## Property of the Week



### Ramsgate

- 2 Bedrooms
- 300m To Train Station
- 1/4 Mile To Town Centre
- Modern Kitchen
- Gas Central Heating
- Enclosed Rear Garden

**£125,000**



**Westgate £66,995**

- 1 Bedroom,
- 1/4 mile to Town Centre
- 1/4 mile to Beach
- Roof Terrace



**Margate £99,995**

- Retirement Apartment
- 1 Dble Bed
- 24 Hour Care
- Lift, C/H



**Ramsgate £170,000**

- 3 Bedrooms, Lounge/Diner
- Fitted Kitchen, GCHeating
- D Glazing,
- Front & Rear Gardens



**Ramsgate £185,000**

- 3 Dble Beds,
- Master Ensuite Wet Room
- 21ft Kitchen/Diner,
- 22ft Lounge



**Margate £214,995**

- 3 Beds, 2 Receptions,
- Kitchen, OSP, Ensuite
- Log Cabin
- 24ft Master Bedroom

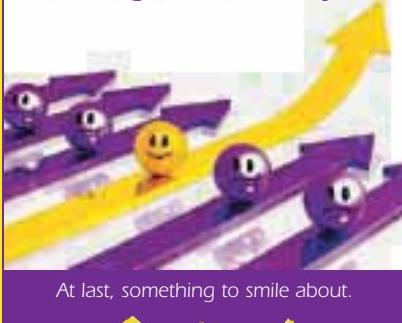


**Broadstairs £230,000**

- 1x2 Bed & 1x1 Bed Flat
- Both Garden Flats Half
- Mile To Station
- Half Mile To Sea Front

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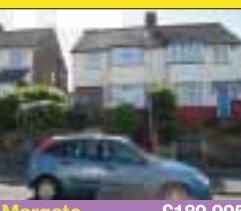
**Garlinge £119,995**

- 3 Beds, 2 Recepts,
- Rear Garden
- No Chain 500m
- To Local Shops



**Cliftonville £164,995**

- 5 Bedrooms, 2 Receptions
- Original Features,
- No Chain
- Mile To Seafrot



**Margate £189,995**

- 4 Beds, Garage & Workshop
- OSP, 200ft Rear Garden
- Kitchen / Diner,
- Conservatory



**Minster £199,995**

- 3 Beds, 22ft Lounge
- 19ft Kitchen/Diner Study
- OSP, Extended To Rear
- Approx 60ft Garden



**Broadstairs £375,000**

- 4/5 Beds, 2 En-Suites
- Two Conservatories
- Under Floor Heating
- GCH, Double Glazing



**Ramsgate £490,000**

- Grade 2 Listed House
- 5/6 Bedrooms, Sea Views
- 4 Receptions
- Over 6 Floors

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Property  
of the week**Birchington £210,000**

Brand New detached house occupying a corner plot and comprising three beds with lounge, kitchen/dining room, bathroom, downstairs utility/wc and en suite shower room. There are surrounding gardens with off street parking for upto two cars. Brand new fitments complimented with d.g. throughout and central heating with No Onwards Chain. Located in a convenient district of Birchington close to local amenities and within school catchments viewing is highly recommended.

**Margate £94,995**

End Terrace One Bedroom Cottage  
Convenient Location  
Rear Courtyard Garden  
Additional Loft Room

**Ramsgate £94,995**

Semi Detached Three Bedroom House  
Two Reception Rooms  
Potential For Parking  
Works Required

**St Peters £124,995**

Purpose Built Two Bedroom Flat  
Allocated Parking  
Popular Location  
Security Entrance System

**St Peters £129,950**

Terraced Two Bedroom House  
Fitted Kitchen/Dining Room  
Cellar Room  
Within School Catchments

**Ramsgate £139,995**

Terraced Three Bedroom House  
No Onwards Chain  
Within School Catchments  
Gardens To Front & Rear

**Cliftonville £157,000**

Terraced Four Bedroom House  
Two Reception Rooms  
60ft Rear Garden  
Superb Kitchen

**St Peters £170,000**

Semi Detached Three Bedroom House  
Extended Superb Kitchen  
Off Street Parking  
Garden To Rear

**Broadstairs £199,950**

Detached Two Bedroom Bungalow  
Approx 70ft Rear Garden  
Off Street Parking  
Close To Town Centre

**Broadstairs £249,950**

Detached Four Bedroom House  
Excellent Order Throughout  
Desirable Location  
Maintained Gardens

**Ramsgate £249,995**

Detached Four Bedroom House  
Sought After Location  
Integral Garage  
No Onwards Chain

**Broadstairs £250,000**

Detached Three Bedroom Bungalow  
Two Conservatories  
Garage Plus Space  
Close To Seafrot

**Palm Bay £279,995**

Detached Three Bedroom Bungalow  
Close To Seafrot  
Approx 80ft Garden  
Garage Plus Driveway

**Ramsgate £350,000**

Detached Two Bedroom Bungalow  
Sea Views  
Close To Seafrot  
Prestigious Location

**Ramsgate £399,950**

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# Keep Kent Working!

It's jobs for Kent



## On track for rail apprentice places

NETWORK Rail has extended its apprenticeship scheme for another year with places available at its Ashford and Orpington depots.

Interest for the nationwide programme is at an all-time high, as almost 8,000 young people have pre-registered for 200 positions, including eight in Kent.

The firm is the not-for-dividend owner and operator of Britain's railway infrastructure, which includes tracks, signals, tunnels, bridges, viaducts, level crossings and stations.

Acting chief executive Peter Henderson said: "The huge numbers we're attracting each year shows young people recognise an apprenticeship can offer a path to a challenging and rewarding career."

"For us it has proven great value in investing in our people."

"With such competition for places it is vital that if business is to lead this country to economic recovery, the right support is needed."

"A more flexible approach offering equal support for all apprentices, whatever their age, would help businesses large and small create the apprenticeships and the skilled workforce Britain needs to thrive."

Mr Henderson revealed that in 2007 the majority of the firm's apprentices were aged 16 and 17, while now there are more 19-to-21-year-olds on the programme.

Apprentices aged over 22 have also increased five-fold since that time, making up 22 per cent of the total. The oldest apprentice is 35.

Meanwhile, Network Rail is also calling for a national debate on the funding for older apprentices.

The firm says equal funding support for over-19s as for those aged 16-18 would help businesses across Britain drive recovery and create as many apprenticeships as possible.

There is currently 50 per cent less support for apprentices aged 19 or over, making it more costly to run a scheme the older the person is who joins.



**PROSPECTS:** Since it opened 11 years ago, Bluewater has created more than 20,000 jobs, and now it has an apprenticeship scheme

# Scheme prepares the experts of tomorrow

BLUEWATER shopping centre hopes its successful apprenticeship programme will convince other employers of the benefits to be gained from investing in youth.

Having created more than 22,000 jobs over the past 11 years, the business has stepped up its search for the retail experts of tomorrow by providing a select group of young people with the skills and experience vital to a career in the industry.

According to Bluewater's retail manager James Waugh, the programme for 16 to 24-year-olds involves both classroom and placement-based training on every aspect of running a successful retail business.

He added: "We recognise the importance of developing the next generation of retail experts, and of supporting the community by providing jobs and training."

"Offering apprentices the chance to learn new skills provides an employer with highly-motivated and enthusiastic individuals, therefore helping to boost overall productivity for business."

By STEVE KNIGHT

"Apprentices can also provide extra support through busy retail periods and projects, and are keen to take on new tasks to expand their knowledge. They offer a valuable insight into today's workforce."

"We hope the success of the scheme will encourage other businesses to introduce similar programmes across the country, and 10 years from now, the Bluewater Apprenticeship Scheme will continue to raise the educational and retail career aspirations of young people."

The training programme launched in 2009 with five apprentices, with the second intake being increased to seven last September.

Among those to have voiced their support for the scheme are Dartford MP Gareth Johnson, Dragons' Den star Theo Paphitis, and the National Skills Academy for Retail.

Those fortunate enough to win an apprenticeship carry out much of their training at the on-site Learning Shop, which has been accessed by more than 10,000 people over the past 11 years.

Mr Waugh revealed how the opening of the Events Venue at Bluewater later this year will create 100 new full-time positions, while the range and frequency of events held will create additional part-time jobs.

He added: "Bluewater recognises the importance of developing the next generation of retail experts, and the importance of supporting the community by providing jobs and training."

Visit the work experience/training section of [www.bluewater.co.uk](http://www.bluewater.co.uk) for more details.

**WHAT** is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working?

Is it running an apprenticeship scheme to attract young workers? Are employees being sent on training courses to aid their personal development? Or perhaps the company is funding a university scholarship to help find the businessmen and women of the future?

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## Young jobless offered help to get back on their feet

YOUTH charity the Prince's Trust has assured Kent's young jobless that help is at hand in finding training and employment.

According to a new report by the trust, 16- to 25-year-olds who are classed as Neet (not in employment, education or training) are more likely to suffer from panic attacks, self-harm and self-loathing.

South East regional director Rosemary Watt-Wyness said: "Unemployment presents a real and frightening mental health problem for young people – and the longer they are out of work, the greater the risk.

"The Prince's Trust can help vulnerable young people back on their feet and into work, building motivation and self-esteem."

Thirty-three-year old Nigel Tait, from Hadlow, near Tonbridge, was out of work for more than four years before getting help from the Prince's Trust's enterprise programme to set up his own business.

In 2009 he won the Federation of Small

Business Enterprise Award for his domestic appliance, electrical and plumbing repairs and sales firm, N Tait Services.

"When you're out of work your self-esteem really suffers," he said. "You feel like a failure, and it really affects your confidence.

"Not having anything to get up for in the morning made me feel increasingly depressed.

"I was also worried about money and whether I would ever be able to find a job.

"Starting my own business has given me a real purpose in life. Thanks to the Prince's Trust, I now feel confident and positive about the future."

Last year, the Prince's Trust supported more than 44,000 disadvantaged young people in building their skills, confidence and motivation. More than three in four moved into work, education or training.

Visit [www.princes-trust.org.uk](http://www.princes-trust.org.uk) or call 0800 842842 for more information.

## Let gigs inspire you to career in creative arts

A MUSIC management student has organised a series of gigs for the under 18s in a bid to inspire young people to pursue



**EXCITED:** Music student Lucy Cousins

careers in the creative arts.

Lucy Cousins, 22, who is in her final year at Canterbury Christ Church University, has set herself up as a freelance music consultant and says she wants to give something back to the community.

The first YARD show will be held at the university's Broadstairs campus on Friday, January 28.

Lucy said: "I'm so excited about bringing the new skills I've learned back home to Thanet.

"YARD is aimed at teenagers in the area who have a desire to perform and make a potential career out of the creative arts, or who just want to know what it's all about and try something new.

"I'm sure they will really enjoy it."

Tickets for the Broadstairs show are £4 and are available from the Westwood Cross branch of HMV.

Visit [www.yardmusic.co.uk](http://www.yardmusic.co.uk) for more information.

## Challenge days to shed new light on engineering

YOUNG engineers from six Kent schools took part in a challenge day organised by the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET).

Last week's event was one of 45 held across the UK to encourage more pupils to consider careers in the 'Stem' subjects of science, technology, engineering and maths.

It was hosted by Bullers Wood School in Bromley, and included teams from nearby Coopers Technology College, Beaverwood School for Girls, Darrick Wood School and Hayes School, as well as from Kemnal Technology College in Bexley.

IET head of education Gareth James said: "Engineering is often an invisible industry among young people. They have pre-conceived negative ideas about what engineers look like and the jobs they do.

"Through these challenge days we aim to encourage more young people to study Stem subjects and consider engineering as a possible career path."

"The young people attending the challenge days will experience hands-on, practical events to challenge their perceptions and make them realise engineering is an exciting, rewarding career path."

## Apprenticeship Week

7-11 February 2011



### Summary of events in Thanet:

Monday 7th February

- Launch of Training Solutions Facebook site
- College Apprenticeship Graduation event



Tuesday 8th February

- Thanet College recruits 'The Apprentice'

Wednesday 9th February

- Principal Graham Razey - live interview on Academy FM at 11.15am
- Drop-in session about Apprenticeships - College Library 12 midday until 5.00pm

Thursday 10th February

- Training Solutions take over the Community Hub at [Westwood Cross](#) 10am-1pm

Friday 11th February

- Training Solutions take over the Community Hub at [Westwood Cross](#) 10am-1pm
- Thanet College hosting the Coastal College Consortium for the 'Employer Engagement Task Group'

Saturday 12th February

- Apprenticeship Bus will be at [Westwood Cross](#) from 8.30am-6.00pm,
- Launch of a range of new Thanet College Apprenticeship programmes



Events run by Training Solutions  
At Work - Through Work - For Work  
01843 605032 / [training.solutions@thanet.ac.uk](mailto:training.solutions@thanet.ac.uk)

# BUSINESS TRAINING SOLUTIONS

MidKent College's dedicated training consultancy provides a professional service that is dedicated to the needs of local companies. Training courses can be delivered in-company or in the first class facilities available at the College.

#### Subject areas available include:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Building &amp; Civil Engineering</li> <li>➢ Commercial &amp; Business</li> <li>➢ Construction Crafts</li> <li>➢ Education</li> <li>➢ Electrical</li> <li>➢ Floristry</li> <li>➢ Health &amp; Safety</li> <li>➢ Health &amp; Social Care</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Holistics</li> <li>➢ Hospitality</li> <li>➢ ICT</li> <li>➢ Logistics</li> <li>➢ Management</li> <li>➢ Office Skills</li> <li>➢ Plumbing</li> <li>➢ Security</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

Visit [www.midkent.ac.uk/employer-zone](http://www.midkent.ac.uk/employer-zone)  
for more information.

**01634 402020**



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BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



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## WELLNESS COACHES REQUIRED

We are a Health & Nutrition company looking for serious people who want to earn £500-£1000+ per month full/part-time working from home.

Full training and support available.  
**01622 671716**

**WEEKEND DOMESTIC ASSISTANT required to work in a residential home in Faversham for the elderly.**

9 - 2 pm.

For further details please call  
**01795 532629 between 10 - 4 pm**

## HAZEL MOTORS

We are urgently looking to recruit a Fully Qualified and experienced

### Vehicle Technician / Mechanic

to join our service team.

Duties to include vehicle servicing, repairs, diagnostic work and tyre fitting etc, on a wide range of cars and light commercials. An MOT tester would be preferred but is not essential. Applicant must be punctual, reliable and hold a full driving licence. Friendly family business, established for over 40 years in Chatham.

Please email your CV to  
[info@hazelmotors.co.uk](mailto:info@hazelmotors.co.uk) or call 01634 406664

### Experienced Timber Sales/Sales Person

Required

40 hours + a week · Wage negotiable  
Must have own transport due to location

Please send your CV to: [glenn@orlestoneoak.co.uk](mailto:glenn@orlestoneoak.co.uk)  
For more information, please view our website:  
[www.orlestoneoak.co.uk](http://www.orlestoneoak.co.uk)



ST JOHN HOME

have a vacancy for a

### Trained Nurse for Friday Night Duty

to join our team caring for 18 elderly people  
Excellent working environment and rates of pay.

For application form phone Matron on  
**01227 273043**

### New Year, New Challenge!

Due to continued growth, Family Homes are seeking a **LETTINGS ADMINISTRATOR**

ideally with relevant lettings experience, excellent people and administrative skills are required as is the need to be able to work on own initiative. F/T or P/T to be discussed.

Send your CV to: [sunil.popat@virgin.net](mailto:sunil.popat@virgin.net)

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**38-39**

Public Sector Vacancies

**39-40**

Jobs for Kent

**41-42**

Public Notices

**41-42**

To advertise in this section



**01303  
817040**

## Part Time Medical Receptionist

We need a new person to join our busy, friendly reception team at the Town Medical Centre, Sevenoaks.

Experience not essential but calm, unflappable nature absolutely necessary! If you would like to work 15 hours (3 days) a week in this rewarding job as part of a happy, progressive practice, please apply in writing with your CV to:

Keith Salter, Practice Manager  
Town Medical Centre  
25 London Road, Sevenoaks TN13 1AR



The Spencer Wing is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEJM Hospital site. We also have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford.

The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies

for the following staff:

### Staff Nurse (Margate)

Full and part-time positions available

Closing date for applications - Monday 31st January 2011

#### Qualifications

Registered Nurse 1st Level

Evidence of continual professional development

ENB 998 Teaching and Assessing Course or equivalent (desirable)

To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact

Liz Justice - 01843 234555 Ext: 62207

For job description and application form please contact:

Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd, The Spencer Wing  
QEJM Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG

Telephone: 01843 234556 Fax: 01843 296333

E-mail: [jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com](mailto:jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com)

The Spencer Wing is an equal opportunity employer

These positions are subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check



RIVERLEA HOUSE require  
**Night Senior**

NVQ2 preferred

Please contact  
Mandie Johnstone on  
**01304 823935**

## Flexi Day Care Assistants

### Required For Residential Care Home in Folkestone

We are looking to recruit staff with relevant experience and a minimum of NVQ level 2. Experience caring for the elderly is essential.

Please call Miss Julia Carter (Home Manager) on 01303 254019 for further details or email CV to [cumbriahouse@ashwoodhealthcare.co.uk](mailto:cumbriahouse@ashwoodhealthcare.co.uk)  
Subject to satisfactory CRB Check

## Do you love your children?

*Have you got room in your heart, your home and your life?*

We need short and long term foster carers who can give a child the support they need through difficult times.

Pay starts at £325 per week and lots of training is given.

We offer all of our carers two weeks paid break per year plus 4 hours sitting each week. If you are interested in fostering and would like to be part of what we do, please call us now at Family Matters Fostering to arrange a local interview.

**01303 210029 [www.fosteringagency.com](http://www.fosteringagency.com)**



## Box Office Supervisor (£17,000 - £18,500)

Theatre Royal Margate is seeking an organised and motivated candidate with excellent sales and database skills and a passion for the arts. You will ensure the efficient running of the Box Office, working with the Theatre Royal Margate team to increase and diversify the footfall into the theatre and its activities. This is a full-time position, for a fixed term of eighteen months, reporting to the General Manager in a small and busy organisation.

For an application pack please call 01843 282956, see our website [www.theatreroyalmargate.com](http://www.theatreroyalmargate.com) or email: [admin@theatreroyalmargate.com](mailto:admin@theatreroyalmargate.com)

Deadline for applications – Fri 4th Feb, 12pm  
Interviews – w/b 7th Feb 2011

Margate Theatre Royal Trust is a registered charity (279015) and aims to be an equal opportunities employer.

## COMMERCIAL MANAGER

An experienced Commercial Manager is required to head up our team of estimators working as a specialist subcontractor in the social housing refurbishment sector.

With contract values up to £6.5 million pa, candidates must be able to demonstrate expertise, flair and innovation in the preparation of Tenders, PQQ's and managing and assisting in Partnering Submissions for RSL's and Local Authorities as well as liaising closely with the commercial sales team and assisting with job cost feedback.

Based at the company's Head Office in Ramsgate, Kent, there will be a requirement for visits to sites and meetings with clients. Offered is a salary appropriate to your experience, together with contributory pension scheme.

Please apply in writing to Mr Ron Twyman  
Planning Manager, 140 Newington Road,  
Ramsgate, Kent, CT12 6PP or  
e-mail [ron@piperwindows.co.uk](mailto:ron@piperwindows.co.uk)



### Sales Co-ordinator

HV Wooding are a well establish and successful manufacturing company producing metal components to customer specification, owing to growth in the business and to assist in the development of future opportunities we have a vacancy for a Sales Co-ordinator.

We are looking for an experienced Sales Co-ordinator to join our busy sales team, the candidate should have proven experience in the following areas:

- Enquiry Management/Sales Admin
- Marketing
- Account Management
- Team Leading

Reporting to the Sales Director you will be responsible for the general co-ordination of the sales team using effective team leading skills to move the team forward and to enhance performance. You will take a hands on pro-active role in developing the Marketing approach for the company, this is aimed at new business generation.

You will need to be numerate and have good attention to detail with a methodical approach to your work together with excellent communication and organisational skills. Experience working in a manufacturing business with some technical knowledge would be of benefit but not essential as full process/product training will be provided. A good knowledge of 'MS Office' software is also required.

This is a key role within the business and will be of interest to someone with Enquiry Management and Marketing experience looking for a challenging and rewarding role.

Please send your CV to [jolson@hvwooding.co.uk](mailto:jolson@hvwooding.co.uk)



**GARDLINE  
ENVIRONMENTAL**

Coastal  
Services  
Division

The Coastal Services Division of Gardline Environmental Ltd provides a variety of survey and windfarm services and specialist vessels for contracts and charters. These include Windfarm Turbine Transfers, Hydrographic Surveys and Guard Boat duties. Due to the award of some major long-term contracts across the UK, we are seeking persons suitable for the following positions:

### SKIPPERS

The ideal candidate must possess previous experience at sea on 10m to 20m vessels, using a variety of propulsion methods. As a minimum, an RYA Powerboat Level 2 Certificate and an ENG-1 medical certificate are required. A VHF, First Aid and sea survival certificates would be an advantage as would experience of training support staff in boat operations. We have several experienced support staff as well as those beginning their careers at sea, so your ability to encourage and guide is important.

The successful candidate must be able to demonstrate their boat handling skills, leadership qualities and problem solving abilities. Your calmness, confidence and initiative will be key to your success as one of our skippers within our team.

### ABLE SEAMEN

In this role we are looking for individuals who have commercial and or leisure boat experience in an all-round support role. Your positive attitude and approach to the work and practical learning will be key to your success and progression. You must be someone who can accurately follow instructions and take responsibility for given tasks, working closely with and providing support to the Skipper regarding all aspects of vessel operations.

Working for Coastal Services, is physically demanding and will require nationwide travel and periods of time away at sea. We do operate on rotations appropriate to contract, usually 16 days on (including travel) and 14 days off, but for ALL the above roles you will need to be flexible and willing to work outside the core business hours on occasions. Ideally we are looking to recruit people from the localities of our contracts, but this is not essential.

If you are interested in working with us, please send your CV and Cover Letter via e-mail detailing your experience, skills and qualifications along with your availability to Allan Tucker, Project Manager at [allan.tucker@gardline.com](mailto:allan.tucker@gardline.com)

Closing date: Thursday 10th February 2011

## Alzheimer's & Dementia

S U P P O R T   S E R V I C E S

Registered Charity Number 1024385

### ARE YOU INTERESTED IN CARING FOR PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA?

Alzheimer's and Dementia Support Services is a registered charity which supports people with dementia and their carers

We are looking for **CARERS** to support people in their own homes. You will need to have a genuine interest in people with dementia plus patience and empathy in abundance. Experience of caring for people or NVQ level 2 required. In return we will offer you specialist training, hours to suit you, and the opportunity to work for a friendly caring charity.

Rate of pay will be £8.00 per hour, plus 4 weeks annual leave.

For application forms and further information contact Judith West 01474 533990 or email [judith.west@alz-dem.org](mailto:judith.west@alz-dem.org)

Closing date for completed applications 21st Feb, 2011.

### Assistant Manager

#### Required For Residential Care Home in Folkestone

We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic and committed person.

Must have minimum NVQ Level 3 qualification, and experience in caring for the elderly is essential.

Please call Miss Julia Carter (Home Manager) on 01303 254019 for further details or email [cumbriahouse@ashwoodhealthcare.co.uk](mailto:cumbriahouse@ashwoodhealthcare.co.uk) Subject to satisfactory CRB Check

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Whether you require daily, short term, long term or permanent roles across Kent and the SE we would love to hear from you.

To find out more information and to register with us, please call us on: 0845 450 1496 or email: [kentteam@tltp.co.uk](mailto:kentteam@tltp.co.uk)



You can also find the latest jobs online: [www.jobsforkent.co.uk](http://www.jobsforkent.co.uk)

**KOSMEDIA**

Telephone: 01303 817040

Fax: 01303 817004

Email: [appointments@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:appointments@kosmedia.co.uk)

Online: [www.jobsforkent.co.uk](http://www.jobsforkent.co.uk)

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RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

### LECTURER IN FUNCTIONAL SKILLS

A Lecturer in Functional Skills is required to teach English and Maths college wide and within discrete groups.

Salary Scale: £9,648 - £11,431  
for 18.5 hours per week, 38 weeks per year

Closing date: 26 January 2011

Interview date: 9 February 2011

For further details and to apply online please visit our website [www.thanet.ac.uk](http://www.thanet.ac.uk) and click on 'Vacancies'.

Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

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will form the basis of the job role. You will need to be a self-motivated individual with sales experience, good communicator, tenacious and hard working to succeed in this environment. Media experience is not essential as full training will be given. We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation. Please apply in writing with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to: Ynez Coton, Commercial Director, ARCHANT KOS MEDIA, MEDIAApple Barn, Hythe Rd, Smeeth, Ashford Kent, TN25 6SS or email ynez.coton@kosmedia.co.uk To apply/more information: ARCHANT KOS MEDIA ynez.coton@kosmedia.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Telephone Sales Executives X2

**Ashford**  
Salary Negotiable  
Telephone Sales Executive You will play the key role in selling advertising across our market leading portfolio of newspapers, websites and mobile products. Candidates may possess a track record of telephone sales, combining excellent communication skills, tenacity and the ability to build relationships. Ultimately, we need an articulate and assured salesperson with a structured and positive manner. Your might also be looking to enter media as a career within sale and this would be the excellent starting point. We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation. Please apply in writing with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to: Christine Davidson, Commercial Director, ARCHANT KOS MEDIA, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS Or by email: christine.davidson@kosmedia.co.uk To apply/more information: ARCHANT KOS MEDIA christine.davidson@kosmedia.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Motor Trade, Driver

**Senior Painter**  
Canterbury  
Salary Negotiable  
To apply/more information:  
AB Crush Panelcraft  
applications@abcrushpanelcraft.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Not for profit, Charities

**CARERS**  
**Northfleet**  
Salary £8.00 per hour  
To apply/more information:  
Alzheimers & Dementia Support  
adminads@btconnect.com  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

**Massage Therapist**  
Canterbury  
Salary 9-18 k per annum + bonuses  
To apply/more information:  
Canterbury Health Practice  
monique@canterburyhealthpractice.e.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: masthe 001

## Registered General Nurse

**Broadstairs**  
Salary £12.23 per hour  
To apply/more information:  
The Royal British Legion  
mauricehouse@britishlegion.org.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

## RGN (Day and Night shifts)

**Gillingham**  
Salary Negotiable  
Prestigious Naval Care Home in Gillingham Requires: RGN's (Day and Night shifts).  
Applicants should be able to provide a high standard of nursing care and work as part of a team. For more information and application form contact: PEMBROKE HOUSE 11 Oxford Road, Gillingham Kent ME7 4BS Tel: 01634 852431 To apply/more information: Royal Naval Benevolent Trust jtembere@pembroke-house.rnbt.org.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Other

### EARN AN INCREASING MONTHLY INCOME...

**Kent**  
Salary TBC  
To apply/more information:  
Utility Warehouse  
alanbarnett@telecomplus.org.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Print, Packaging, Distribution

**Inkjet Machine operators**  
Tunbridge Wells  
Salary Negotiable  
To apply/more information:  
Fox Print Services  
rebecca.oldroyd@foxprintservices.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Production Manager (Mailing)

**Tunbridge wells**  
Salary Negotiable  
To apply/more information:  
Fox Print Services  
rebecca.oldroyd@foxprintservices.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Public Relations, Media, Journalism

## Childcare Support Assistants

**Broadstairs**  
Salary £10,079  
To apply/more information:  
Broadstow School  
personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Public Sector, Social Services

## Registered General Nurse

**Broadstairs**  
Salary £12.23 per hour  
To apply/more information:  
Royal British Legion  
mauricehouse@britishlegion.org.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Registered Nurse

**Canterbury**  
Salary Negotiable  
To apply/more information:  
Barham House  
barhamhouse@hotmail.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Community Support Workers

**Tonbridge**  
Salary £8.25 to £10.00 per hour  
WANT A NEW CAREER IN THE NEW YEAR? COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORKERS REQUIRED FOR AN EXPANDING CARE AGENCY.  
FULL-TIME Shifts AVAILABLE IN TONBRIDGE! Self Employed basis on/off Shift starts at 7am £8.25 to £10.00 per hour. You need to be happy taking responsibility and working with older people on your own. Must have own car and phone. Uniform provided. Full Training programme available. Experience preferred but not

## Class 2 LGV Moffett Driver

**Maidstone**  
Salary £9 - £10 Per Hour  
We are currently looking for a Class 2 Moffett Driver required for on-going temporary work. All applicants will need to have an up to date moffett certificate and hold a digi-tach card. Hours of work will be Monday - Friday days working between 40 - 45 hours per week. For further details please call Alex on 01622 664999. To apply/more information: Best Connection Agency (The) maidstone@thebestconnection.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: AH0001

## Transport, Logistics, Aviation

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### LICENSING ACT 2003

#### Notice of application for the variation of a premises licence

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an application has been made to the licensing authority of Maidstone Borough Council for the variation of a premises licence under section 34 of the Licensing Act 2003.

Details of the application are as follows:

Name of Applicant: Mytime Active  
Postal address of premises: Cobtree Golf Course, Chatham Road, Sandling, Maidstone, ME4 3AZ  
Brief description of proposed variation to premises licence: To extend Permitted Hours to 00.30hrs for Supply of Alcohol Mon-Sat & remove conditions section under 'Children' from embedded conditions. Entertainment Mon-Sat.

Any responsible authority or interested party wishing to make representations on this matter must submit those representations in writing to: The Licensing Team,

Maidstone Borough Council PO Box 1255 MAIDSTONE ME14 9LT by no later than 28 days from the date of this notice.

ANY REPRESENTATIONS WILL BE NOTIFIED TO THE APPLICANT AND WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE LICENSING AUTHORITY

Please note that it is an offence knowingly or recklessly making a false statement in connection with an application and, on summary conviction for the offence, a person is liable to a fine not exceeding level five on the standard scale (currently £5,000)

Signed: B Thompson Dated: 14/01/11

## COOK & CO (SOUTH EAST) LIMITED

### T/A "Mr Clutch"

#### (In Creditors' Voluntary Liquidation)

Company Number: 05452695

Notice is hereby given that Mark Newman & Vincent John Green (IP No. 008723) in the capacity of CCW Recovery Solutions Ltd, Jaeger House, 5 Clarice Gardens, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1PE were appointed Joint Liquidators of the above named company by the members and creditors on 7 January 2011. Further details contact Julie Windate, Tel: 01892 700200, Email: info@ccwrecoverysolutions.co.uk Date: 7 January 2011  
Mark Newman and Vincent John Green, Joint Liquidators

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## KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

### THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

#### APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

Applications have been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as venues for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Knowlton Court, Knowlton, Canterbury**  
Applicant: **Andrew Fox-Pitt**  
Name of Premises: **Fordwich Town Hall, King Street, Fordwich**  
Applicant: **Elizabeth Lewis**

The applications and plans of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey  
Head of Registration  
First Floor, Invicta House  
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX



## KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

### THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

#### APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Court Stairs Manor, Pegwell Bay, Ramsgate**  
Applicant: **Mrs Julie Elder**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey  
Head of Registration  
Regulatory Services  
First Floor, Invicta House  
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX



## KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

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#### APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Orchard House, 164 Wateringbury Road, East Malling**  
Applicant: **Colin Price**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey  
Head of Registration  
1st Floor  
Invicta House  
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX



## KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

### THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

#### APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as venues for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Paper Mill, Foxhole Lane/Hinkins Road, Hawkhurst**  
Applicant: **Mr Charlie Andrew**

Name of Premises: **Groombridge Place Gardens, Groombridge, Tunbridge Wells**

Applicant: **Mrs Jill Todd**

Plans of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey  
Head of Registration  
First Floor, Invicta House  
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX



## KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

### THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

#### APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

Applications have been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as venues for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Hotel Du Vin, Crescent Road, Tunbridge Wells**  
Applicant: **Mike Aud**

Name of Premises: **The Beacon, Tea Garden Lane, Tunbridge Wells**  
Applicant: **John Culen**

The applications and plans of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey  
Head of Registration  
First Floor, Invicta House  
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX



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## SECTION 48 PLANNING ACT 2008

### REGULATION 4 INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (APPLICATIONS: PRESCRIBED FORMS AND PROCEDURE)

#### REGULATIONS 2009

##### DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER AT KENTISH FLATS OFFSHORE WIND FARM, NEAR WHITSTABLE AND HERNE BAY, KENT

#### NOTICE PUBLICISING A PROPOSED APPLICATION FOR A DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER ("DCO")

Notice is hereby given that Vattenfall Wind Power Limited (the "Applicant") of 10 Greycoat Place, London, SW1P 1SB proposes to apply to the Infrastructure Planning Commission (the "Commission") under section 37 of The Planning Act 2008 for the above-mentioned development consent order (the "Application").

The Application relates to the construction and operation of an extension to the existing 90 megawatt (MW) Kentish Flats Offshore Wind Farm, near Whitstable and Herne Bay in Kent (the "Project").

The proposed DCO will, amongst other things, authorise:

- Construction and operation of up to 17 additional turbines to the south and west of the existing Kentish Flats turbine array. The extension would provide up to 51 megawatts (MW) of additional capacity and cover a maximum area of 8 km<sup>2</sup> in water depths of approximately 5 metres. The turbines would have an expected rated capacity of around 3MW with a maximum tip height of around 0.5 to 1 m and the foundations are likely to be steel monopiles driven about 30-40 metres into the seabed.
- Associated development comprising the installation of one or more export cables from the wind farm to the shore in the vicinity of Hampton Pier from where it is likely to follow the existing onshore cable route to the Red House Farm electricity substation. This route would take the 150m before joining Westbrook Lane. The cabling would run along Westbrook Lane under the railway line before reaching the old Thanet Way. It would then join Thorenden Close before running along Thorenden Wood Road for approximately 200m to the Red House Farm electricity substation. The route is approximately 2km in length.
- Licences to authorise the installation of the turbines and cables on the seabed.
- Such ancillary, incidental and consequential provisions, permits and consents as are necessary and/or convenient.

The Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment development. Accordingly, the Applicant will be making preliminary environmental information available. A copy of the Preliminary Environmental Report with Non-Technical Summary, which includes details of the proposals, will be available from 31 January 2011 from the following sources:

[www.vattenfall.co.uk/en/kentish-flats-extension.htm](http://www.vattenfall.co.uk/en/kentish-flats-extension.htm)

Mandy Broughton, Kentish Flats Extension, Vattenfall Wind Power, 10 Greycoat Place, London, SW1P 1SB - There will be a charge of £5 for posted reports which will be provided as printed copies or on CD. The documents may also be viewed at:

#### Council offices

Canterbury City Council

Military Road

Canterbury

Kent, CT1 1YW

Opening hours for these offices are Monday – Friday 8:30am to 5pm.

The documents will be available until 4 March 2011. You can write to us with your comments to Mandy Broughton, Kentish Flats Extension, Vattenfall Wind Power, 10 Greycoat Place, London, SW1P 1SB or email [mandy.broughton@vattenfall.com](mailto:mandy.broughton@vattenfall.com). The deadline for written responses to our pre-application consultation is 4 March 2011.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Irfan Erdogan of 68 New Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0AE has applied to Gravesend Borough Council for the variation of late night refreshment (Premises Licence) Monday to Sunday 11am – 6am for the premises of Rainbow Pizza & Kebab situated at 68 New Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0AE. A register of licensing applications can be inspected at <http://www.gravesend.gov.uk/licensing> or at Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU Tel: 01474 337334 by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am to 4pm Monday to Friday. Any person wishing to submit representations to my application must give notice in writing to the address shown above giving in detail the grounds of objection by 04/02/2011.

The council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. In the case of an application for a provisional statement, please note that representations will be restricted once a statement has been issued.

## KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

### THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

#### APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

Applications have been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as venues for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Hotel Du Vin, Crescent Road, Tunbridge Wells**  
Applicant: **Mike Aud**

Name of Premises: **The Beacon, Tea Garden Lane, Tunbridge Wells**  
Applicant: **John Culen**

The applications and plans of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey  
Head of Registration  
First Floor, Invicta House  
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX



Canterbury City Council  
Harbour Office  
Whitstable Harbour  
Kent, CT5 1AB

**Licensing Act 2003****Notice of Application for Grant, Variation of a Premises Licence.**

Notice is hereby given that Andrew Forrest and Valerie Hobbs have applied to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council for the grant, variation of a premises licence in respect of premises known as The Vigo Inn Gravesend Road Fairseat Kent TN15 7JL. The application seeks the license in respect of the following. The sale of alcohol. The provision of regulated entertainment. The provision of late night entertainment. Details of the register of record of the application can be viewed at Tonbridge and Malling Council Offices (licensing Dept), Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling during normal office hours. Any representation from interested parties or responsible authorities must be made in writing to the council by 07/02/11. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction is a fine not exceeding £5000.

**Town and Country Planning Acts**

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

**10/04145/LBC Scribbins Walkhurst Road, Benenden**

- Listed Building Consent - Demolition of existing single storey building to rear and erection of two storey rear extension. Replacement porch. Demolition of existing garage and change of use of land to locate the new garage and access (LB)

**10/04146/HOUSE Hodges Oast Dumble Road, Brenchley**

- Alteration to existing cat-slide roof to form pitched roof to match adjacent granary (LB)

**10/04131/HOUSE Hancocks Farm House Tilsden Lane, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**

- Replacement building to provide pool plant, changing facilities, garage/store to ground floor, recreational accommodation and kitchen to first floor (LB)

**11/00032/HOUSE Bettenham Manor Bettenham Lane, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**

- Construction of an all weather surface tennis/ball court and enclosure (LB)

**11/00024/FUL 21 - 23 Church Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**

- Extension of Time - Change of use from offices to two residential units (TW/08/00060/FUL refers) (CA) (LB)

**11/00025/LBC 21 - 23 Church Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**

- Extension of Time - Listed Building Consent - Change of use from offices to two residential units (TW/08/00062/LBC refers) (LB)

**10/04126/HOUSE Lidwells House North Road, Goudhurst**

- Erection of two-storey side extension (re-instatement of a range on the site of a pre-existing demolished Victorian range), the removal of modern internal stud partition walls and the replacement of two windows with doors in the west elevation (LB)

**10/04129/LBC Lidwells House North Road, Goudhurst**

- Listed Building Consent - Erection of two-storey side extension (re-instatement of a range on the site of a pre-existing demolished Victorian range), the removal of modern internal stud partition walls and the replacement of two windows with doors in the west elevation (LB)

**11/00026/HOUSE Whites Hedgebury Road, Goudhurst**

- Three-bay cart shed garage (CA) (LB)

**11/00041/FUL Barn Little Bewlbridge Farm, Goudhurst**

- Extension of time - Barn and stable conversion into two new dwellings including garage and carport (TW/07/03703 refers) (LB)

**11/00003/FULMJ Hawkhurst Castle Cranbrook Road, Hawkhurst**

- Extension of Time - Demolition of existing building, and the erection of a C2 elderly person care home with 65 beds and 11 C2 assisted living cottages for the over 60s and realignment of the Heartcoak Road (TW/08/01622/FULMJ refers) (MAJOR)

**11/00009/HOUSE 2 Pixhall Cottages High Street, Hawkhurst**

- Single storey ground floor rear extension and first floor rear extension; Attic conversion; Internal alterations, including repositioning of staircase (LB)

**11/00012/LBC 2 Pixhill Cottages High Street, Hawkhurst**

- Listed Building Consent - Single storey ground floor rear extension and first floor rear extension; Attic conversion; Internal alterations, including repositioning of staircase (LB)

**10/03995/FUL The Swan At The Vineyard The Down, Lamberhurst**

- Single storey rear extension associated internal works (CA) (LB)

**10/04001/LBC The Swan At The Vineyard The Down, Lamberhurst**

- Listed Building Consent - Single storey rear extension associated internal works (LB)

**10/04164/LBC 5 Coggers Cottages The Broadway, Lamberhurst**

- Listed Building Consent - Flood protection (LB)

**11/00035/LBC Victoria House High Street, Lamberhurst**

- Listed Building Consent - Flood protection measures (LB)

**11/00047/LBC Arnold House High Street, Lamberhurst**

- Listed Building Consent - Flood protection measures (LB)

**10/04119/TELN5 Land Outside 2 Carlton Road, Park**

- Telecommunication Notification - Installation of new green coloured replacement cabinet shell (CA)

**11/00001/FULMJ Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust Pembury Hospital, Pembury**

- Extension/enlargement of 2 car parks approved under application TW/07/2595/FULMJ to provide 100 extra car parking spaces (LB) (MAJOR)

**11/00013/LBC Flat 3 Bentham Hill House, Southborough North**

- Listed Building Consent - Removal of internal timber partition wall (non-load bearing) (LB)

**11/00029/FUL Shefield Hall Shefield Road, Southborough North**

- Conversion of disused former office building into 3 apartments (CA)

**11/00042/HOUSE 61 St James Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, St James**

- Small dormer to north facing roof slope of rear roof structure (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website ([www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk](http://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk)), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to [planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk) or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe  
Head of Planning Services  
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 22 January 2011

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that Sudha Patel

**Of 156 High Street Gillingham Kent ME7 1AJ**

Has applied to Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock road Chatham Kent ME4 4TR for the VARIATION of an off license application

Hours for sale of alcohol: Monday to Sunday 6am until 11pm

For the premises Jerry News

**Situated at: 156 High Street Gillingham Kent ME7 1AJ**

Interested parties can make written representations to Medway Council Gun Wharf Dock Road Chatham ME4 4TR or view my application by contacting the Council on 01634 337 108 by 11th February 2011

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with a Licence Application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction is £5,000.

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**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL****THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004****APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS**

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:

Name of Premises: Little Hermitage, Gravesend Road, Higham

Applicant: Mrs Geraldine Cox

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey  
Head of Registration  
Regulatory Services  
First Floor, Invicta House,  
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

**Highways - District of Sevenoaks****(VARIOUS ROADS IN THE DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS) (PROHIBITION OF PARKING OUTSIDE SCHOOLS) ORDER 2011**

NOTICE is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 47, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act: This Order is necessary for safety reasons, and will make stopping on the "School Keep Clear" zig-zag markings on the following lengths or road from Mondays to Fridays from 8.30am to 9.30am and from 3.00pm to 4.00pm during school term times an infringement which may be dealt with by the issue of a penalty charge notice.

The location is-

A225 High Street, Eynsford, Sevenoaks on the north western side between the following distances from the junction with Mill Lane;

- from a point in line with the south western boundary of property Ashprington for a distance of 28 metres in a south westerly direction;
- between points 86 metres and 118 metres south west of a point in line with property Ashprington.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Sevenoaks Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent Highway Services, St Lawrence House, 48A West Hill, Dartford and Sessions House County Hall, Maidstone, during normal opening times. If you wish to offer support or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Transport and Development Team Leader, Kent Highway Services, St Lawrence House, 48A West Hill, Dartford DA1 2EU by noon on Monday 14 February 2011.

**Highways - District of Shepway****(PROHIBITION OF STOPPING OUTSIDE SCHOOLS) ORDER 2011**

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under Sections 1, 2 and 124 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

This Order is necessary for safety reasons, and will make stopping on the "School Keep Clear" zig-zag markings on the following lengths or road from Mondays to Fridays from 8.00am to 5.00pm during school term times an infringement may be dealt with by the issue of a penalty charge notice.

The locations are-

High Street - Brookland  
Countryfields - Dymchurch  
Park Farm Road - Folkestone  
Mill Lane - Hawkinge  
Skinner Road - Lydd  
Stowting Hill - Stowting  
Horn Street - Folkestone  
Octavian Drive - Lympne  
Main Road - Sellinge

Church Road - Folkestone  
New Road - Elham  
Baldwin Road - Greatstone  
Queens Road - Lydd  
Bossingham Road - Stelling Minnis  
Claythorne Lane - New Romney  
Church Road - Lyminge  
School Road - Saltwood  
Haven Drive - Hawkinge

In Lucy Avenue, Folkestone the hours of operation for the school keep clear markings will be from Mondays to Fridays from 8.00am to 6.00pm during school term times.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which together with the relevant plans any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined on Mondays to Fridays in the offices of Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, between 9.00am and 5.00pm, at Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford and at Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent during normal opening hours.

If you wish to offer support or object to the proposed Order, you should send the grounds for your objection in writing to Highway Services, Transport and Development, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to [td.eastkent@kent.gov.uk](mailto:td.eastkent@kent.gov.uk) by noon on 14 February 2011.

**RECTORY LANE, BROOKLAND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is given that because of works to carry out tree-cutting and aerial cabling, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Rectory Lane, Brookland, on or after 9 February 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed. The road will be closed between the junctions with Oldhouse Lane and King Street.

The alternative route is via Oldhouse Lane, Carter Lane and King Street. The road will be closed between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm each day and re-opened outside these hours.

**Highways - District of Thanet****ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT, 1984 (ZEBRA CROSSING - A225 HIGH STREET, EYNFSORD, SEVENOAKS)**

NOTICE is hereby given that Kent County Council, as local traffic authority, and after consultation with the chief officer of police, propose to establish a crossing (Zebra) for pedestrians under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all their enabling powers, as follows:

A225 HIGH STREET, EYNFSORD, SEVENOAKS

178 metres south west of the junction with Mill Lane.

**Highways - Borough of Tonbridge and Malling****(EAST MALLING PARKING PLAN - IN THE BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE & MALLING) (WAITING RESTRICTION AND ON-STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT NO. 4) ORDER, 2010**

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of its powers under Sections 1, 2 & 4 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended, and of all other enabling powers and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act, proposes to make the above Order.

The effect of the Order will be to introduce The East Malling Parking Plan to improve access, safety and balance parking availability, as follows:

- Residents Preferential Parking scheme is proposed for the following roads: Chapel Street, Church Walk, High Street, eastern end of Mill Street and the Access Road to The Village Car Park. With parking restricted to marked, designated on-street parking bays where road width, junctions and access points allow, with a limit of 4 hours (no return 2 hours) between 8am - 6pm, Monday to Friday. Qualifying permit holders to be exempt from these restrictions.
- Proposed to install restrictions in the lay-by in Twisden Road to assist with customer parking with parking limited to 1 hour (no return 1 hour) between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Saturday.
- Advisory roadside parking areas without waiting restrictions are proposed at the southern end of Middle Mill Road and the western end of Mill Street, where road width, junctions and access points allow to reduce obstruction and improve access for through traffic and public transport services.
- An additional Disabled Persons Parking Bay is proposed in Church Walk and in the Access Road to The Village Car Park.
- Proposed to reduce the operating times of existing day-time waiting restrictions (single yellow lines) in the Rocks Road to prohibit parking between 10am to 10.30am Monday to Friday and extend this restriction towards the junction of Gillets Lane. The same day-time restrictions are proposed for the full length of Rocks Close. These restrictions are proposed as a minimum measure to prevent long-term parking near East Malling Train Station.
- Proposed to introduce no waiting "At Any Time" (double yellow lines) in specific locations where it is necessary to reinforce the rules of the Highway Code and prevent parking in unsuitable places. The Access Road to The Village Car Park, Beech Road, Busbridge Close, Carnation Close, Carnation Crescent, Chapman Way, Chapel Street, Columbine Road, Cottenham Close, Elm Crescent, High Street, Jasmine Road, Larkspur Road, Lavender Road, Lilac Green, Lime Crescent, Mill Street, Middle Mill Road, New Road, Rocks Road, Stickens Lane, The Grange, The Rocks Road, Twisden Road and Wateringbury Road.
- Proposed to amend the layout of the 'School Keep Clear' restrictions in Chapman Way to protect the revised vehicular and pedestrian accesses arrangements to St James the Great Primary School and The Childrens Centre. This is to support the aims of the School Travel Plan to improve safety for vulnerable child pedestrians. No change is proposed to the operating times of the existing restrictions.

The Order sets the cost of a residents parking permit at £30 per annum (£120 for business permits) which includes a card of 10 visitors vouchers. Additional visitors vouchers are set at the cost of £10 for a card of 10 visitors vouchers.

The Order will contain the usual exemptions to enable a vehicle to wait with police permission or for passengers to board or alight, for the loading and unloading of goods, for enabling work to be carried out in or adjacent to the road, for disabled persons and for emergency vehicles.

A copy of the Order together with a map, a copy of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of Tonbridge and Malling Council Offices, Kings Hill, Tonbridge Castle Gateway Centre, Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall Maidstone and East Malling and Larkfield Parish Council Offices, Church Farm, New Hythe Lane, Larkfield

If you have any questions concerning the Order or require further information please telephone 01732 876222 during normal office hours.

Any person wishing to support or object to the Order should write to the Director of Planning, Transportation and Leisure, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ quoting the name of the Order and stating their reasons, by not later than 12 Noon on Monday, 14th February, 2011.

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Parking Action Plan

The East Malling Parking Plan is a community built project developed through consultation with local people

KATHERINE KERSWELL, Group Managing Director  
Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2XQ

For further information please contact

Kent Highway services on  
0845 247 800 (local rate) or visit  
[www.kent.gov.uk/highways](http://www.kent.gov.uk/highways)



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## Jag's roaring success

By STEVE LOADER

ENGLAND'S cricketing success in The Ashes series is just one reason to be cheerful at Jaguar.

Since the classic British sporting marque began a four-year sponsorship of the rejuvenated team last summer – all England players now drive a Jag – it has also scored several other boundaries.

Its flagship XJ model has taken leadership of the director-level segment of the market against tough opposition such as the Mercedes-Benz S-Class and BMW 7-Series, despite only arriving on the market in May.

Sales of the XK sports coupe and convertible also leapt 15 per cent in 2010 – double the rate of growth in its sector and in tough times.

And Jaguar's best-selling XF middleweight model has just enjoyed another record year of sales – up 25 per cent. It has now set sales records three years on the trot.

This has been helped by an astonishing record in awards around the world; it now has more than 80, including confirmation this week of a fourth consecutive win as



**NEW BOUNDARIES:** England cricket team sponsorship deal has coincided with a surge in sales for Jaguar's line-up (XJ main picture)

'Best Executive Car' at the annual What Car? Awards.

What Car? editor-in-chief Steve Fowler said: "We love everything about the XF: it looks fantastic, drives brilliantly and makes real financial sense, too."

Reviewing a great year for his brand, Jaguar MD Geoff Cousins said the key to success was desirable new models, competi-

tive offers and a big-hitting TV advertising campaign for the XF and XJ, all helping to drive retail sales.

But, he added: "We have also undertaken some incredibly successful partnerships in 2010, most notably with the ECB and the Ashes-winning cricket team.

"Since we started our association with the team they have been on a winning

streak and the response from dealers and customers has been incredibly positive. We look forward to welcoming them home."

Pricing for the Jaguar XF now starts at £31,900 for the 3.0-litre diesel, while the XK starts at £63,900 and the XJ, from £55,500.



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2011 11 VAUXHALL VIVARO EXCLUSIV 1.6 DTI 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles	£1,999
2009 09 FORD FOCUS 1.6TDCi 115PS 5DR Hatch AUTO, 9000 miles	£1,999
2011 11 FORD FUSION 1.6TDCi 115PS 5DR Hatch AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles	£1,999
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2011 11 RENAULT SCENIC EXPRESSION 1.6 16V 5DR Hatch AUTO, CITRON, BLUE, 10000 miles	£1,999
2010 11 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3 SRI 16V Hatch AUTO, BLACK, 10000 miles	£1,999
2011 11 VAUXHALL VIVARO EXCLUSIV 1.6 DTI 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 9000 miles	£1,999
2011 11 SEAT IBIZA 1.4 TDI 75PS 5DR Hatch AUTO, BLUE, 450 miles	£1,999
2010 10 HONDA CITY 1.3 VTEC 16V 5DR Hatch AUTO, CREST, 18000 miles	£1,999
2010 10 VAUXHALL VIVA 1.2 75PS 5DR Hatch AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles	£1,999
2011 11 HONDA PILOT 2.4 I VTEC 16V 4WD AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, GREY, 9000 miles	£1,999
2011 11 PEUGEOT 107 1.0 69PS 5DR Hatch AUTO, BLUE, 10000 miles	£1,999
<b>CONVERTIBLES / CABRIOLETS</b>	
2006 06 MERCEDES-BENZ CLK 230 KOMPRESSOR AVANTGARDE CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLACK, 20000 miles	£1,999
2006 06 RENAULT SCENIC 1.6 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 11000 miles	£1,999
2006 06 PEUGEOT 307 COUPE 1.6 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 12000 miles	£1,999
2007 07 HONDA INSPIRE 2.4 I VTEC 16V 4WD AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles	£1,999
2004 04 RENAULT SCENIC EXPRESSION 1.6 16V 5DR Hatch AUTO, BLACK, 21000 miles	£1,999
2004 04 RENAULT SCENIC EXPRESSION 1.6 16V COUPÉ CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 30000 miles	£1,999
<b>FREESTYLE</b>	
2009 09 FORD FIESTA STYLÉ PLUS 1.6 16V Hatch AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles	£1,999
2007 07 FORD FIESTA 1.4 16V 5DR Hatch AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles	£1,999
2007 07 FORD FIESTA STYLÉ CLIMATE 1.6 16V 5DR Hatch AUTO, MARINE/WHITE/BLACK, 3000 miles	£1,999
2006 06 FORD FIESTA STYLÉ 1.6 16V 5DR Hatch AUTO, 10000 miles	£1,999
<b>FOCUS Hatch &amp; SALOON</b>	
2009 09 FORD FOCUS TITANIUM 1.8i 16V Hatch AUTO, BLACK, 20000 miles	£1,999
2008 08 FORD FOCUS 1.6 16V 5DR Hatch AUTO, BLACK, 20000 miles	£1,999
2008 08 FORD FOCUS 1.6i 16V 5DR Hatch AUTO, BLACK, 10000 miles	£1,999
2008 08 FORD FOCUS 2.0TDCi 140PS 5DR Hatch AUTO, GREY, 9000 miles	£1,999
2008 08 FORD FOCUS 1.6i 16V 5DR Hatch AUTO, BLUE, 11000 miles	£1,999
2008 08 FORD FOCUS 1.6i 16V 5DR Hatch AUTO, GREY, 12000 miles	£1,999
2008 08 FORD FOCUS 1.6i 16V 5DR Hatch AUTO, GREY, 13000 miles	£1,999
2008 08 FORD FOCUS 1.6i 16V 5DR Hatch AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 14000 miles	£1,999
<b>RENAULT SCENIC</b>	
2010 11 RENAULT SCENIC PRIMASTYLE 1.6 16V 5DR Hatch AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 30000 miles	£1,999
2007 07 RENAULT SCENIC 1.6 16V 5DR Hatch AUTO, BLUE, 10000 miles	£1,999
2007 07 RENAULT SCENIC 1.6 16V 5DR Hatch AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles	£1,999
2006 06 RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE 1.6 16V 5DR Hatch AUTO, GREY, 12000 miles	£1,999
2007 07 RENAULT SCENIC PRIMASTYLE 1.6 16V 5DR Hatch AUTO, RED, 10000 miles	£1,999
2007 07 RENAULT SCENIC PRIMASTYLE 1.6 16V 5DR Hatch AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles	£1,999
2007 07 RENAULT SCENIC PRIMASTYLE 1.6 16V 5DR Hatch AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles	£1,999
2007 07 RENAULT SCENIC PRIMASTYLE 1.6 16V 5DR Hatch AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles	£1,999
2007 07 RENAULT SCENIC PRIMASTYLE 1.6 16V 5DR Hatch AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles	£1,999
2007 07 RENAULT SCENIC PRIMASTYLE 1.6 16V 5DR Hatch AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles	£1,999
2007 07 RENAULT SCENIC PRIMASTYLE 1.6 16V 5DR Hatch AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles	£1,999
2007 07 RENAULT SCENIC PRIMASTYLE 1.6 16V 5DR Hatch AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles	£1,999
2007 07 RENAULT SCENIC PRIMASTYLE 1.6 16V 5DR Hatch AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles	£1,999
<b>RENAULT</b>	
2007 07 RENAULT MEGANE PRIMASTYLE 1.6 16V CONVERTIBLE AUTO, GREY, 15000 miles	£1,999
2010 11 RENAULT MEGANE EXPRESSION 1.6 16V AUTO, BLACK, 10000 miles	£1,999
2010 11 RENAULT MEGANE EXPRESSION 1.6 16V 5DR Hatch AUTO, BLACK, 10000 miles	£1,999
2010 11 RENAULT MEGANE JOUES PRIMASTYLE 1.6 16V 5DR Hatch AUTO, CITRON, 10000 miles	£1,999
2001 01 RENAULT MEGANE STYLAGE 1.6 16V 5DR Hatch AUTO, GREY, 110000 miles	£1,999
2004 04 RENAULT MEGANE PRIMASTYLE 1.6 16V 5DR Hatch AUTO, GREY, 14000 miles	£1,999
2006 06 RENAULT SPACIA 1.2 16V 5DR Hatch AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles	£1,999
2006 06 RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE 1.6 16V 5DR Hatch AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles	£1,999
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2006 06 RENAULT SCENIC EXPRESSION 1.6 16V 5DR Hatch AUTO, BLACK, 10000 miles	£1,999
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2006 06 RENAULT SCENIC EXPRESSION 1.6 16V 5DR Hatch AUTO, BLACK, 10000 miles	£1,999
<b>CHEVROLET</b>	
2008 06 CHEVROLET LACETTE 1.6 5DR Hatch AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles	£1,999
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2006 06 CHEVROLET LACETTE 1.6 5DR Hatch AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles	£1,999
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2007 07 CHEVROLET MATIZ 1.0 5DR Hatch AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 6000 miles	£1,999
2007 07 CHEVROLET MATIZ 1.0 5DR Hatch AUTO, BLACK, 18000 miles	£1,999
2007 07 CHEVROLET MATIZ 1.0 5DR Hatch AUTO, BLACK, 3000 miles	£1,999
<b>HYUNDAI</b>	
2006 06 HYUNDAI ELANTRA 1.6 COMFORT 5DR Hatch AUTO, GREY, 9000 miles	£1,999
2007 06 HYUNDAI COUPE 1.8 COMF 5DR Hatch AUTO, BLU, 4000 miles	£1,999
2008 08 HYUNDAI MATRIX 1.6 COMF 5DR Hatch AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles	£1,999
2010 10 HYUNDAI GETZ 1.6 5DR Hatch AUTO, BLUE, 10000 miles	£1,999
2004 04 HYUNDAI GETZ 1.6 5DR Hatch AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles	£1,999
2005 05 HYUNDAI ACCENT 1.2 16V 5DR Hatch AUTO, GREY, 8000 miles	£1,999
2005 05 HYUNDAI ACCENT 1.2 16V 5DR Hatch AUTO, GREY, 8000 miles	£1,999
2007 07 HYUNDAI ACCENT ATLANTIC 1.2 16V 5DR Hatch AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles	£1,999
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### 07 Plate. Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDI PD vRS 5-Dr Estate

Finished in Black Magic Metallic with a Grey Velour - Leather interior, 57,500 miles. £9,995

### 05 Plate. Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDI PD Ambiente 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Satin Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 47,800 miles. £6,995

### 09 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.2 HTP 12V (70 BHP) 5-Dr Estate

Finished in Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interiorGrey Metallic, 10,700 miles. £8,995 interior

### 08 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.6 16V (105 BHP) 5-Dr Estate

Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 27,250 miles. £8,795

### 10 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Dynamic Blue with a Grey Cloth interior, 9,500 miles. £6,995

### 58 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Dynamic Blue with a Black Cloth interior, 13,200 miles. £6,495

### 57 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1.2 HTP Classic 5-Dr Estate

Finished in Graphite Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 39,500 miles. £5,995

### 53 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1.2 Comfort 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Red Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 49,488 miles. £3,495

## Other Makes

### 59 Plate. SEAT Leon 1.9 TDi S Emocion 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Red Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 11,300 miles. £11,995

### 58 Plate. Fiat 500 1.3 MultiJet Sport 3-Door Hatchback

Finished in Pasodoble Red with a Grey Velour - Leather interior, 27,100 miles. £9,795

### 51 Plate. BMW 3 Series 2.5 325Ci 2-Dr Convertible

Finished in Titanium Silver Metallic with a Grey Leather interior, 44,300 miles. £8,995

### 55 Plate. Peugeot 407 SW 2.0 HDi 136 SE (Luxury)

Finished in Silver Metallic with a Black Leather interior, 44,500 miles. £7,995

### 06 Plate. Toyota Yaris 1.3 VVT-i T3 5-Dr

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### 08 Plate. Mitsubishi Lancer 1.6 Equippe 4-Door Saloon

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### 56 Plate. Honda Jazz 1.4i-DSi SE 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Ice Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 21,135 miles. £5,795

### 08 Plate. Ford Ka 1.3 Zetec Climate 3-Door Hatchback

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### 06 Plate. Fiat Punto 1.2 Active 5-Door Hatchback

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\*VAT reduction equivalent to 20.0% VAT applied to the RRP including factory fitted optional extras on all Fabia, Roomster, petrol Octavia and petrol Superb new car retail orders taken before 31 March 2011. VAT is still applicable and will be shown on the customer invoice. Offers may be varied or withdrawn at anytime. Prices and specifications are accurate at time of print. Model shown varies from UK specification. Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Skoda range: Urban 19.6 (14.4) – 68.9 (4.1), Extra Urban 36.2 (7.8) – 94.2 (3.0), Combined 27.7 (10.2) – 83.1 (3.4). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the Skoda range 237 – 89g/km.

# FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader



## Secret success of Mazda MPV

MAZDA'S revitalised MPV, the Mazda5, has been described as the 'best kept secret' in its sector by motor trade valuation service CAP.

The seven-seater arrived in showrooms last autumn and is now starting to filter into the used car market where CAP's market watchers have rated its residual values above that of established rivals, including the Citroen C4 Grand Picasso, Ford Grand C-Max, Peugeot 5008, Renault Grand Scenic and Vauxhall Zafira.

The Mazda's styling is distinctive, with a wave motif worked into the flanks; love it or hate it, the device does enable the car to stand out in a sector where the basic single box MPV design has a tendency to make models look alike.

This boost to the Mazda's sales appeal coincides with the arrival of a 115PS (113bhp) 1.6-litre diesel option, complementing the 1.8 and 2.0-litre petrol engines offered at launch.

The new version costs £20,650 in TS2 form and £21,950 in Sport trim and a low emission level of 138g/km makes it attractive to tax conscious company car drivers.

Dartford-based Mazda UK's fleet chief Peter Allibon said: "Once again, the experts are forecasting strong residual value and competitive whole life cost figures for another Mazda model. Added to a CO2 figure of below 140g/km we anticipate the new 1.6D will prove popular with fleet operators and company car drivers."

## Glitz but brawny Landie special



IF YOU thought Land Rover's brawny Defender was above wearing limited edition trappings, think again.

Because the 4x4 icon is due to appear from March in eye-catching X-Tech guise: silver exterior with black roof and wheel arches, 'Ebony' interior with leather side bolsters to the seats, and distinctive 16-inch 'Saw Tooth' alloys.

The Defender's renowned all-terrain ability also comes as standard in a package costing £24,995.

This special version is based on the 90 Hard Top Commercial derivative, with a 2.4-litre diesel engine.

## Double plus for 3008



PEUGEOT has added two new models to the 3008 range, which has just retained the 'Crossover of the Year' title at the annual What Car? awards.

The Peugeot, which is part MPV, part 4x4 lookalike and part family hatchback, gains an SR and ENVY Special Edition in addition to the Active, Sport and Exclusive launch options.

The SR (from £20,645) is based on the Sport model, but gains colour sat nav, Bluetooth, and Grip Control with 16-inch alloys with mud and snow tyres – Grip Control allows the front-driven 3008 to deliver traction on a par with a similar all-wheel drive car.

The ENVY (from £18,895) is also based on the Sport, but has been given an exclusive extra spec including rear privacy glass, aluminium exterior highlights, 'head-up' display and panoramic glass roof.

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Motability

Vehicles shown feature metallic paint at extra cost (Spark, Aveo at £375 and Cruze, Captiva at £410). 5 year warranty up to 100,000 miles, expires whichever occurs first. This offer includes Chevrolet's standard Customer Care Commitment for a 2 year unlimited mileage manufacturer's warranty, and third year manufacturer's warranty with a 60,000 mile limitation. The warranty excludes wear and tear and serviceable items and the vehicle has to be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule. \*Savings shown are against recommended retail price at time of publication. Calls may be recorded and monitored for training purposes. Prices correct at time of press.

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km). Aveo 1.4 LT 5dr: Urban - 35.8 (7.9), Extra-urban - 60.1 (4.7), Combined - 47.9 (5.9). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 140g/km. Captiva 2.0 VCDi LT 5-seat: Urban - 32.1 (8.8), Extra-urban - 45.6 (6.2), Combined - 39.2 (7.2). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 191g/km. Cruze 1.6 S 4dr: Urban - 31.4 (9.0), Extra-urban - 51.4 (5.5), Combined - 41.5 (6.8). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 159g/km. Spark 1.2 LT 5dr: Urban - 42.8 (6.6), Extra-urban - 67.3 (4.2), Combined - 55.4 (5.1). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 119g/km.

# Platoon training under way

by  
**STEVE LOADER**

THEY say be careful what you wish for.

So I've only got myself to blame after joking in print about cars so dull to drive that you feel like putting your feet up, reading the paper and having a cup of tea, since that's exactly what we may be able to do on motorways within a decade.

It would be enabled by a development known as 'Platooning' – the objective of an EU-funded project called SARTRE (Safe Road Trains for the Environment).

The idea is that cars will be able to join an automatically-controlled convoy of other vehicles headed by a professional driver, allowing the following drivers to have a cuppa, read or presumably snooze even.

Meanwhile, each car is guided by the lead vehicle, with a narrow gap between cars to relieve traffic congestion. The system would



also reduce fuel consumption and emissions, yet individual cars can leave the procession at any time.

The road train would also require no modification to the roads used and could integrate safely with non-train vehicles.

Science fiction? No. A working prototype has just been demonstrated by Volvo, one of the partners in a three-year European project headed by a British firm, Ricardo UK.

Tom Robinson, project co-ordinator for SARTRE said: "Platooning offers the prospect of improved road safety, better road space utilisation, improved driver comfort on long journeys and reduced fuel consumption and hence CO<sub>2</sub> emissions."

The system could also be a major safety aid; statistics show human error causes at least 80 percent of road accidents.

But while the technology could soon be ready, road users in 25 EU countries may be less prepared to hand over control.

Time for another cuppa then, and some serious thinking.

## Focus in March

FORD has confirmed that its all-new Ford Focus will be in showrooms for March, priced from £15,995.

It will be available initially in sporty five-door hatchback and suave five-door estate formats that bode well for a racy coupe style three-door model at a later date.

It distances this new car from the fairly

humdrum styling of the second generation Focus too.

As a model that Ford will market around the world, the new Focus will also feature a range of advanced technologies, plus the more efficient, low-CO<sub>2</sub> powertrains required by buyers and legislation.

These will include the new 1.6-litre Ford EcoBoost turbocharged petrol engine as well as updated versions of the marque's 1.6- and 2.0-litre diesels.



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6-speed manual 5-door SUV

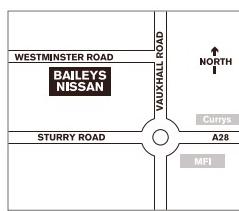


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<b>CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS</b>	168 G/KM
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<b>WHEEL SIZE</b>	18"
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07 57	CORSA 1.2 DESIGN 3DR, Flame Red, 4,9370 miles	£6495	£5995
07 57	CORSA 1.2 SXI A/C 3DR, Star Silver, 9,635 miles	£6795	£6500
08 57	CORSA 1.6 VXR 3DR, Arden Blue, 23,500 miles	£9995	£9635
08 08	CORSA 1.2 BREEZE + 3DR, Silver Lightning, 16,900 miles	£7495	
08 08	CORSA 1.3 CDTI BREEZE 3DR, Lightning Silver, 24,590 miles	£7995	£7495
08 08	CORSA 1.3 CDTI BREEZE 5DR, Flame Red, 41,275 miles	£7295	£6995
08 08	CORSA 1.3 COTI BREEZE + 3DR, Flame Red, 16,355 miles	£7495	£7150
08 58	CORSA 1.3 SXI CDTI A/C 5DR, Silver Lightning, 16,300 miles	£7495	£7275
09 59	CORSA 1.0 ACTIVE 3DR, Flame Red, 4,000 miles	£7995	£7795
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10 59	CORSA 1.3 COTI ACTIVE 3DR, Black Sapphire, 7,750 miles	£8495	£8250
10 10	CORSA 1.3 COTI ACTIVE 5DR, Black Sapphire, 4,925 miles	£10495	£10295
10 10	CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 1.2 3DR, Black Sapphire, 2,340 miles	£9995	£9495
10 10	CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 3DR, Silver Lightning, 20,645 miles	£8995	£8750
10 10	CORSA 1.3 COTI ENERGY 3DR, Glacier White, 2,800 miles	£10995	£10395
10 10	CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 5DR, Metro Blue, 2,925 miles	£9995	£9495
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10 10	CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 3DR, Star Silver, Del miles	£9495	£8995
10 10	CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 3DR, Metro Blue, Del miles	£9495	£8995
10 10	CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 3DR, Silver Lake, Del miles	£9495	£8995
10 10	CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 3DR, White, 2,734 miles	£8995	£8795
10 60	CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 3DR, Metro Blue, Del miles	£9795	

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10 60	CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 3DR, Metro Blue, Del miles	£9795	
10 60	CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 3DR, White, Del miles	£9495	
10 60	CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 3DR, White, Del miles	£9495	
ASTRA SELECTION		was	now
06 06	ASTRA 1.6 ACTIVE 5DR, Ultra Blue, 37,000 miles	£5995	£5495
08 08	ASTRA 1.4 BREEZE 5DR, Ultra Blue, 34,850 miles	£6995	£6695
08 08	ASTRA 1.8 SXI X PACK 5DR, Silver Lightning, 15,670 miles	£8495	£7995
08 09	ASTRA 1.4 SPORTS HATCH 3DR, Red, 16,810 miles	£8995	£8695
09 99	ASTRA 1.8 SPORTS TWIN TOP 2DR, Air Blue, 3,320 miles	£14995	£11995
ASTRA SELECTION		was	now
09 59	ASTRA 1.8 ACTIVE 3DR, Sovereign Silver, 8,040 miles	£9995	£9600
10 59	ASTRA 2.0 VXR 3DR, Aten Blue, 5,660 miles	£16995	£15995
10 10	ASTRA 1.6 ACTIVE 5DR, Star Silver, 5,010 miles	£11495	£9995
10 10	ASTRA 1.8 SXI X PACK 3DR, Black Sapphire, 3,490 miles	£13995	£11995
10 10	ASTRA 2.0 CDTI SRI 5DR, Black Sapphire, 3,330 miles	£18995	£17995
10 10	NEW ASTRA 1.7 CDTI SRI 5DR, Power Red, 4,680 miles	£15995	£14995
10 10	ASTRA 1.6 EXCLUSIVE AUTO 5DR, Silver Lake, 1,100 miles	£12995	£12995
10 10	NEW ASTRA 1.4 EXCLUSIVE 5DR, Iceberg Blue, 3,000 miles	£12995	£11495
10 10	ASTRA 1.4 SPORT SPORTS HATCH 3DR, Power Red, 2,065 miles	£19995	£19995
10 10	NEW ASTRA 1.6 EXCLUSIVE 5DR, Black Sapphire, 2,210 miles	£13995	£11995
MERIVA SELECTION		was	now
06 06	MERIVA 1.7 CDTI DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 28,000 miles	£5995	
07 07	MERIVA 1.7 CDTI DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 28,000 miles	£6495	£6250
08 58	MERIVA 1.8 DESIGN X PACK 5DR, Air Blue, 7,600 miles	£8795	£8495

ZAFIRA SELECTION		was	now
09 59	ZAFIRA 1.8 ACTIVE+ 5DR, Ultra Blue, 5,670 miles	£13495	£11995
09 59	ZAFIRA 1.9 CDTI DESIGN 5DR, Panacotta, 5,675 miles	£17495	£13995
10 10	ZAFIRA 1.8 ENERGY 5DR, Sovereign Silver, 1,570 miles	£13995	£12995
10 10	ZAFIRA 1.8 ENERGY 5DR, Black Sapphire, 4,325 miles	£13995	£12995
10 10	ZAFIRA 1.6 LIFE A/C 5DR, Ultra Blue, 4,690 miles	£12995	£11995
10 10	ZAFIRA 1.7 CDTI ENERGY 5DR, Star Silver, 2,390 miles	£14995	£14695
INSIGNIA SELECTION		was	now
09 09	INSIGNIA 1.8 EXCLUSIVE PLUS PACK 5DR, Sovereign Black, 11,400 miles	£11495	£10995
10 10	INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTI EXCLUSIVE 5DR, Star Silver, 6,395 miles	£15495	£14995
10 10	INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTI EXCLUSIVE 5DR, Black Sapphire, 10,180 miles	£14995	£14475
VECTRA SELECTION		was	now
08 58	VECTRA 2.2 DESIGN 5DR, Ultra Blue, 20,345 miles	£7995	£7600
DUE SOON SELECTION		was	now
06 06	MERIVA 1.7 CDTI DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 28,000 miles	£5995	
06 55	ASTRA 1.6 SXI 5DR, Moonlight, 6,280 miles	£6995	
07 57	ASTRA 1.8 ELITE 5DR, Star Silver, 19,000 miles	£7495	
08 57	ASTRA 1.8 SXI 3DR, Flame Red, 30,200 miles	£7695	
09 59	INSIGNIA 2.0 SRi 4X4 5DR, Black Sapphire, 7,500 miles	£15495	

COMMERCIALS SELECTION		was	now
10 10	COMBO 1.3 CDTI 5DR, White, 17,005 miles	£7995+VAT	£7495+VAT
10 10	COMBO VAN 1.2 5DR, Glacier White, Del miles	£8995+VAT	£8495+VAT
10 10	ASTRA 1.7 CDTI SPORTIVE 3DR, Sovereign Silver, Del Miles	£8995+VAT	£8495+VAT
10 10	NEW MOVANO 2.3 5DR, Halo Silver, Del Miles	£17995+VAT	£16995+VAT
10 10	VIVARO LWB 2.0 5DR, Glacier White, 7,350 miles	£11995+VAT	£11495+VAT
10 10	VIVARO 1.6 CDTI 5DR, Star Silver, 2,370 miles	£14995+VAT	£13995+VAT
NON NETWORK Q SELECTION		was	now
02 02	CORSA 1.0 SE 3DR, Flame Red, 49,065 miles	£2795	£2500
04 54	CORSA 1.0 ENERGY 3DR, Silver Lightning, 37,000 miles	£3495	
05 55	CORSA 1.2 SXIA/C 3DR, Ultra Blue, 48,450 miles	£3995	£3750
05 55	CORSA 1.2 BREEZE+ 5DR, Black Sapphire, 64,264 miles	£3995	£3695
05 55	AGILE 1.4 NJOY 1.25DR, Blue, 39,850 miles	£3295	£2995
05 55	ASTRA 1.6 DESIGN ESTATE 5DR, Star Silver, 11,325 miles	£5495	£5195
06 55	ASTRA 1.6 SXI 5DR, Black Sapphire, 55,800 miles	£5995	£5495
03 53	ZAFIRA 1.6 CLUB 5DR, Rubber Red, 55,640 miles	£3495	£3195
07 07	ZAFIRA 1.6 ENERGY 5DR, Silver Lightning, 63,520 miles	£5995	£5650
06 06	MITSUBISHI LANCER 1.6 4DR, Grey, 52,825 miles	£3995	£3695
05 05	SUZUKI SWIFT 1.3 3DR, Blue, 45,160 miles	£3495	
05 55	PEUGEOT 206 CC ALLURE 1.6, Blue, 35,000 miles	£5995	£5495
05 55	PEUGEOT 206 VERVE 1.4 5DR, Grey, 51,725 miles	£4495	£4250
04 54	FORD FOCUS 1.6 LX, 5DR, Star Silver, 45,780 miles	£3995	£3695

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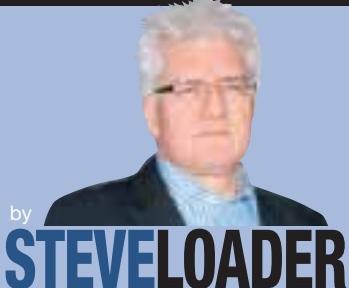
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56 FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCI ZETEC 5DR [CLIMATE]	£5999	£5499	£500
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10 FORD FIESTA DIESEL HATCHBACK ECONETIC [2009] 5 DR 1.6 TDCI 90 + DPF [ - ] 15188 MILES	£12999	£11999	£1000
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58 FORD KA 1.2 STYLE+ 3DR	£7499	£6399	£500
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09 FORD MONDEO DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.0 TDCI TITANIUM X 5DR [2007 - 2010] 23205 MILES	£13999	£12999	£1000
59 FORD MONDEO DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.0 TDCI TITANIUM 5DR [140] AUTO [2008 - 2010] 25236 MILES	£13499	£12799	£700
57 FORD MONDEO PETROL HATCHBACK EDGE [1.5] 1.6 DURATEC 252PS [ - ] 14438 MILES	£6999	£7999	£1000
57 FORD FUSION PETROL HATCHBACK FUSION + [2007.25] 5-DR 1.6 100PS [ - ] 12317 MILES	£6999	£5999	£1000
57 FORD FUSION PETROL HATCHBACK ZETEC 5DR [2008] 5-DR AUTO 1.6 100PS [ - ] 10750 MILES	£6999	£5999	£1000
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## DrivingReview



CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT  
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

### Vauxhall Astra 1.7CDTi Ecoflex

**REMEMBER** the good old days when an estate car was an estate car?

Unfortunately though, instead of suggesting that the car was part and parcel of some large and affluent rural establishment, the term 'estate car' came to imply that parts and parcels were all it carried, as a workhorse of tradesmen and sales reps.

So, in a bid to revive its status, manufacturers began applying new words and styles to revitalise this traditional sector.

The Germans started it – let's have no more recriminations – when BMW dubbed its estate models with the term 'Touring', and Audi went further with 'Avant', both creating a rural/sporty lifestyle image that attracted new buyers.

The word 'Tourer' also became popular and Vauxhall has applied the label Sports Tourer to its latest Astra estate model and, to be fair, it rests well on it.

The previous 2004-vintage Astra load lugger really was a tradesman/rep estate car; it was capacious, being based on the stretched

# Embark upon a tour of this Astra estate



Astravan platform, but ordinary looking and never likely to capture the lifestyle buyer.

Not an accusation that can be levelled at its more exotically named 2010 successor.

This is a class act, like the five-door hatchback from which it is derived, being good to

look at, drive and be in and more than justifying the cocky label.

In fact, it's in a class of its own for now; I have put the Ford Focus down in the fact file as its most obvious estate rival, but it's plain to look at and eking out its last few days

before replacement by an all-new model.

Closest in style to the Astra currently is Renault's Megane Sport Tourer, which looks racy but cannot match the Vauxhall for a level of class or quality that even nibbles at Audi A3 Sportback premium territory – yup,

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that's another estate car by another name.

To further scare the Astra Sports Tourer's outclassed rivals, there is also an efficient environmentally friendly Ecoflex version, as tested here.

The 125PS (123bhp) 1.7-litre diesel doesn't ask for any sacrifices to go green; it is lively, fun to drive and refined, and should average around 60mpg, while also costing just £30 a year in road tax after a freebie in year one.

And it handles well while delivering a decent ride, thanks to the Astra's much trumpeted Watts linkage rear suspension set-up that keeps the car taut on corners, without the

need for teeth-shattering shock absorption.

Admittedly, the Ecoflex is not cheap at more than 22 grand, but list prices are there to be ignored, especially in the current climate.

Strike the right deal and the Astra will more than repay your faith. You can't even criticise the badge as too mainstream; Vauxhall has been moving upmarket over the past few years as General Motors seeks to pitch Chevrolet as its value brand.

Vauxhall design inside and out has also improved out of all recognition, with the bigger Insignia winning the 2009 European Car of the Year gong and the Astra and Meriva MPV

narrowly pipped to the same title for 2010 and 2011 respectively.

Vauxhall, of course, has banged on lots about how it re-thought and applied its branded Flex treatment to the latest and airiest Astra cabin, but you need time with the car to appreciate how well it all works.

Not surprisingly, the extra functionality of the Tourer is also a huge bonus literally, especially as the slinky profile does nothing to affect the car's practicality – this Astra load-lugger is actually one of the most crammable in its class, but for the rather more functional Kia Ceed SW.

## Driving Portfolio

### VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 CDTI ECOFLEX £22,005

Driving appeal	(out of five)	★★★★★
Image		★★★★
Space		★★★★★
Value		★★★
Running costs		★★★★
Reliability		★★★★
How green?		★★★★★
Road tax	£30/year (zero in year one)	
Best rival	Ford Focus Estate	

## The Verdict



### DON'T LIKE:

unrealistic list prices



### NOT SURE:

the Vauxhall badge can yet deliver the snob appeal the new Astra range deserves



### REALLY LIKE:

how Astra puts the 'estate' class back into the sector

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**10 10 SEAT Altea 1.6 SE TDi CR Ecomotive** 5-door MPV in Planeta Blue. 9,500 miles. Was: £18,980 **Now: £13,695** Save £5,285!  
**10 60 SEAT Altea 1.9 TDi S** 5-door Hatchback in Track Grey. 3,000 miles. Was: £16,190 **Now: £12,995** Save £3,195!  
**10 10 SEAT Leon 1.9 TDi S 90** 5-door Hatchback in Luna Grey. 2,500 miles. Was: £15,590 **Now: £12,795** Save £2,795!  
**10 10 SEAT Leon 1.9 TDi S 5-door** Hatchback in Nayara Blue. 4,500 miles. Was: £15,590 **Now: £12,295** Save £3,295!  
**10 10 SEAT Ibiza 1.6 TDi CR Sport** 5-door Hatchback in Luna Grey. 5,500 miles. Was: £15,000 **Now: £11,995** Save £3,005!  
**10 10 SEAT Leon 1.9 TDi S 90PS** 5-door Hatchback in Luna Grey. 5,000 miles. Was: £15,590 **Now: £11,795** Save £3,795!  
**10 60 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Good Stuff** 5-door Hatchback in Black Magic. 2,000 miles. Was: £13,495 **Now: £10,995** Save £2,500!  
**10 60 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Good Stuff** 5-door Hatchback in Luna Grey. 3,000 miles. Was: £13,495 **Now: £10,995** Save £2,500!  
**10 60 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Good Stuff** 5-door Hatchback in Emocion Red. 3,500 miles. Was: £13,095 **Now: £10,695** Save £2,400!  
**07 07 SEAT Leon 2.0 FR TSi 200PS** 5-door Hatchback in Black Magic. 34,500 miles. Was: £10,995 **Now: £10,495** Save £500!

**SOLD**

- 10 60 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 SE** 5-door Hatchback in Luna Grey. 2,000 miles. Was: £12,650 **Now: £10,395** Save £2,255!  
**SEAT Ibiza 1.4 SE** 5-door Hatchback in Black Magic. 3,000 miles. Was: £12,650 **Now: £9,995** Save £2,655!  
**07 57 SEAT Leon 1.9 TDi Stylance** 5-door Hatchback in Zenith Grey Metallic. 29,000 miles. Was: £9,995 **Now: £9,495** Save £500!  
**10 10 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Sport** 3-door Hatchback in Emocion Red. 4,000 miles. Was: £12,570 **Now: £9,295** Save £3,275!  
**08 58 SEAT Leon 1.6 Emocion** 5-door Hatchback in Emocion Red. 10,000 miles. Was: £9,795 **Now: £9,295** Save £500!  
**08 58 SEAT Leon 1.6 Emocion** 5-door Hatchback in Crono Yellow. 21,000 miles. Was: £9,495 **Now: £9,195** Save £300!  
**07 07 SEAT Leon 1.9 TDi Stylance** 5-door Hatchback in Black Magic Metallic. 37,500 miles. Was: £9,295 **Now: £8,995** Save £300!  
**08 58 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 16V SE 85PS** 5-door Hatchback in Luna Grey. 17,500 miles. Was: £8,295  
**07 07 SEAT Leon 1.9 TDi PD Stylance** 5-door Hatchback in Luna Grey Metallic. 54,561 miles. Was: £7,995  
**08 58 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 SE** 5-door Hatchback in Black. 19,000 miles. Was: £7,995  
**08 08 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Sportrider** 5-door Hatchback in Zenith Grey. 17,000 miles. Was: £6,895  
**07 56 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Stylance** 3-door Hatchback in Luna Grey. 17,000 miles. Was: £5,795  
**04 54 SEAT Toledo 1.9 TDi S 110 BHP** 4-door Saloon in Lava Grey Metallic. 75,000 miles. Was: £3,695

### Other makes

- 05 05 BMW Z4 3.0i SE** 2-door Roadster/Convertible Tiptronic in Maldives Blue. 13,500 miles. Was: £16,750  
**06 06 Saab 95 Vector Sport TiD** 4-door Saloon Automatic in Steel Grey. 22,000 miles. Was: £9,995

- 07 07 Vauxhall Vectra 1.9 CTDi Exclusive** 5-door Hatchback Automatic/Tiptronic in Silver. 31,000 miles. Was: £8,295 **Now: £7,795** Save £500!

- 08 57 Skoda Octavia 1.6 FSi Classic** 5-door Hatchback in Gold Metallic. 23,600 miles. Was: £7,995 **Now: £7,295** Save £700!

- 07 07 Renault Clio 1.4 Dynamique** 5-door Hatchback in Mercury Metallic. 24,500 miles. Was: £7,295 **Now: £6,995** Save £300!

- 07 07 Skoda Roomster 2 1.4** 5-door Hatchback in Deep Sea Blue. 23,000 miles. Was: £7,695 **Now: £6,995** Save £700!

- 08 08 Renault Twingo 1.2 GT** 3-door Hatchback in Black. 12,000 miles. Was: £6,995 **Now: £6,395** Save £600!

- 07 07 Renault Modus 1.4 16V Dynamique** 5-door Hatchback in Antique Green. 10,800 miles. Was: £6,995 **Now: £6,295** Save £700!

- 07 07 Vauxhall Agila 1.2 Design** 5-door MPV in Star Silver. 9,800 miles. Was: £6,495 **Now: £5,995** Save £500!

- 07 57 Ford Fusion 1.4 Style Climate** 5-door Hatchback Automatic in Tonic Blue. 17,500 miles. Was: £5,995

- 07 57 Renault Scenic 1.6 Dynamique** 5-door Hatchback Automatic in Pearl Black. 35,800 miles. Was: £5,995

- 08 57 Ford Ka 1.3 Zetec Climate** 3-door Hatchback in Ocean Blue. 26,500 miles. Was: £5,495

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## INSIDE THIS WEEK

PINNING career hopes on a degree isn't always the best course. Big Interview subject Matt Sankey, who has taken on and expanded the family business in Tunbridge Wells, hated school until he went to a comprehensive and learned the skills that have stood him in such good stead. Vocational or in-job training may now be a better way to get on...



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## KEY PARTNERS



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# Chamber's cash crash threatens to descend into 'Thamesgate' row

By **STEVE LOADER**

steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

BOARD members are winding up Thames Gateway (Kent) Chamber of Commerce after its finances crashed over Christmas and New Year.

But the demise of the North Kent chamber now threatens to turn into a bitter row between the defunct chamber's board and the former chief executive Tracey Manley – a dispute sure to be dubbed 'Thamesgate'.

Manley has worked for the chamber and its forebears for 20 years, but claims she was forced out in October. She is now pursuing an employment tribunal case alleging wrongful and unfair dismissal as well as disability discrimination – she had been signed off work due to anxiety and depression.

### Statement

But the chamber, which has offices at the Medway City Estate in Rochester and covers the area from Dartford to Swale, insists that its chief executive resigned her post.

Thames Gateway's final management board – elected a year ago – has posted a lengthy statement on the chamber's website highlighting its concerns about the organisation's financial position: "At the beginning of October the chief executive resigned as a director and employee of the Chamber. Since that date the board have worked tirelessly in an attempt to reach serviceable agreements with all known creditors... and work with staff many of whom have been disenchanted and disillusioned for some time and in trying to ensure the Chamber continued to provide benefit to its members and customers."

However, the statement admitted that income



**Thames Gateway (Kent) Chamber of Commerce**



**TROUBLED WATERS:** Former chief executive Tracey Manley, left, is in dispute with the Thames Gateway (Kent) Chamber of Commerce after her October departure. Jo James, right, of Kent Invicta, described the Gateway chamber's collapse as "very sad"

from export services faltered in late 2010 due to poor weather, which was then exacerbated by an alleged shortfall in membership numbers, which also impacted on income and left no option but to seek to wind-up the chamber last week.

Members have been recommended to seek help and advice from neighbouring chambers, notably the Channel Chamber covering east Kent, and the county's biggest chamber Kent Invicta, which stretches from Canterbury, through Ashford and to Maidstone.

Kent Invicta chief executive Jo James told Business Week the collapse of the chamber – which has its origins in the 1890s – was "very sad".

While unable to comment on the circumstances of Thames Gateway's crash, she added that it was important that her chamber – in concert with its parent, the British Chambers of Commerce – ensure that disenfranchised members of Thames Gateway should have access to all the usual services they expected.

"Kent Invicta has made it clear to Thames Gateway members that it will honour the subscriptions and provide the services they would have enjoyed until the end of the membership," she said.

"Of course we would hope they renew with us, but I just want to ensure that businesses in this

area are not left high and dry at a difficult time."

On the question of the export documentation and processing, in which Thames Gateway was the dominant player among Kent chambers, she said Kent Invicta had invested in two additional staff to cope with demand.

Asked whether she would then actively seek to absorb the Thames Gateway area, she said Kent had suffered a history of chamber collapses over the years and she would not rush to step in until she knew exactly why Thames Gateway had failed.

### Salvaged

Tracey Manley has said she was unhappy with the statement issued by her former employer and countered with her own.

This included: "Everyone who knows me or has worked with me over the past 20 years knows that I was 100 per cent committed to my job with the Chamber. It was my life."

"Despite all that has happened to me personally, I remain very committed to the Chamber, its members and my former colleagues and hope that some way can be found for the Chamber can be salvaged and continue to provide the excellent support and services it has to members over so very many years."

# Armour secures funding protection

ONE of the UK's biggest consumer electronics groups is committed to defying the economic downturn after agreeing a multi-million-pound credit line with GE Capital.

The £18 million overdraft will allow Armour Group, which has its headquarters at Tunbridge Wells, to press on with expansion plans in its home and in-car communications and entertainment markets. It expects to spend more than £80m over the coming year.

Armour employs more than 300 people across eight operating sites in the UK,

Sweden and Hong Kong. Major customers in the vehicle industry include Bentley, Hyundai, Scania Trucks, and Case New Holland tractors.

It also deals with retailing giants such as Halfords, Currys and PC World, Carphone Warehouse, Marks & Spencer, Comet, Argos, Tesco and John Lewis, yet Armour is probably all but unknown to most consumers as so much of its business is in supplying equipment to fit into others' products. Its best known brand is an enduring name in in-car audio: Radiomobile. Group CEO George Dexter

said: "Despite difficult market conditions we continue to focus on ambitious growth plans. We appreciate that the funding provided by GE Capital presents us with the opportunity to remain attractive to our customers and to maintain our competitive advantage."

Alan Austin, GE Capital regional director, said: "We are very pleased be working with this highly professional management team who are seeking to take advantage of exciting growth opportunities in what remains a challenging environment."



# Comment

**W**E MAY be reading the last chapter on British Bookshops and Stationers, aka Sussex Stationers (see story opposite). During the current downturn, its formula – tidy but not flashy stores offering discounted books, stationery and greetings cards – should have fitted the shopper's bill, despite internet and supermarket competition.

But circumstances rather than the business model look like being the problem. One of those was undoubtedly an act of God: snowfall before Christmas, which wiped out the festive shopping windfall so crucial to many stores.

The other was cashflow. There can be many reasons for this, but a big clue here may be the sale of BBS to a private equity firm in 2009. Official interest rates may be low at present, but the county's business community know how hard it is to borrow cash on sensible terms, if at all.

The buyers of BBS took over a business that had expanded before the recession, yet just reported an annual loss of nearly £2 million. They probably hoped – in classic private equity style – to oversee a cost-cutting regime to both turn it around and turn a profit quickly and stay one step ahead of interest on money borrowed to fund their enterprise.

At the time, they may even have been encouraged by the crash of another big player in High Street bookstores, Borders, following an ill-fated private equity buyout. "More elbow room for us," they may have thought.

Unfortunately, they reckoned without a sluggish recovery on the High Street – and the pre-Christmas snow.

It is shaping up to be a familiar story. BBS could yet escape closure, but there will be other high street casualties to come that expanded on cheap borrowing and consumer abandon before the recession. They may have survived so far on increasingly expensive refinancing, but a day of reckoning looms.

Bigger potential victims are out there, too. Just months ago we reported fears for Kentish success story, Saga – the insurance and travel firm for the over-50s.

Still fabulously profitable in itself, the firm has to cope with massive interest payments on debt acquired by refinancing in 2007 to merge it with the AA within a private equity parent, Acromas. And there are many more cases like this, big and small.

BUSINESS EDITOR STEVE LOADER



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# Pedal to the legal metal in race to complete deal

LAW firm CooperBurnett claimed a coup after overcoming tight deadlines in the sale of Marden-based car parts supplier Automotive Distributors Ltd (ADL) to rival German group Ferdinand Bilstein.

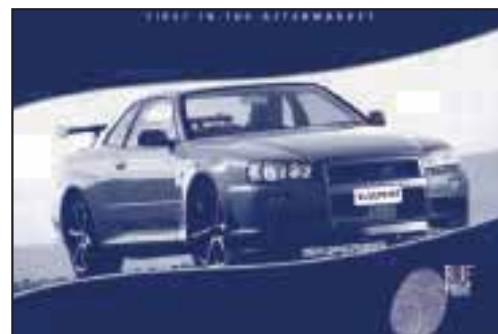
"We first had contact with the purchaser's solicitors on December 17 and the deal closed on January 4, so the timescales were extremely tight, particularly considering that the final days of the deal took place over Christmas and the New Year," said CooperBurnett partner Victoria Sampson, who also headed the team handling the deal.

The deal for ADL also included the company's subsidiaries in Spain and Italy, and all rights to the Kent company's Blue Print parts brand.

ADL's board and management team remain in place, with the exception of Mark Hookway and outgoing chairman Chris Jeffries, who retires after leading ADL for more than 22 years.

As part of the Bilstein group, ADL will focus on developing Blue Print as an international specialist for Japanese, Korean and American car parts.

"We were delighted with the advice CooperBurnett provided and how quickly they reacted," said ADL's MD Darren Ambrose. "This is a very positive move for the future of ADL and gives us access to resources to provide



POLE POSITION: Blue Print brand was part of the deal

both long-term security for our workforce [of 200] and the opportunity to truly internationalise the Blue Print brand."

Bilstein MD Karsten Schüßler-Bilstein, said the combined group would "Have the expertise, information and manufacturing links to provide the parts aftermarket worldwide with a truly complete, independent solution for all makes and models of vehicle."

## New face boosts anniversary team



FROM LEFT: Richard Theobald, Jonathan Rowe and Victoria Sampson

COOPERBURNETT has announced the promotion of Jonathan Rowe to partner, and recruitment of Richard Theobald to join its wills and probate team.

Jonathan joined CooperBurnett in June, 2008, from a practice in Bermuda and previously worked in London,

and has a broad range of experience in all types of property transactions and issues. Richard qualified as a solicitor in September, 2009. The law firm is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year and now has a team of 55, including 11 partners.

## Beware of building up to court battle

COSTLY and increasing numbers of building disputes are jeopardising businesses in challenging times, according to a Hadlow-based surveyor.

Richard Metcalfe, principal at Metcalfe Briggs Surveyors, said there could be several reasons for the trend, but added: "Clients will often dispute that work has been completed satisfactorily in the hope of paying less, while hard-pressed building contractors might be tempted to take measures to protect their margins."

However, he warned that both courses could be false economies, embroiling firms in costly and lengthy legal battles that could have been avoided by a formal tendering process and agreeing a detailed specification for work to be carried out.

Warring firms could also head off a legal wrangle by calling in firms like his to arrange mediation by a chartered

building surveyor. "They will look at the original agreement and give an opinion as to whether what was agreed has been delivered and whether the quality of work justifies the amount of money being asked for," he said.

"It becomes almost a forensic examination and the resulting report will often persuade one of the parties in the dispute to back down."

If the dispute cannot be resolved without recourse to the courts, the surveyor's report can be turned into an expert witness statement.

"The law requires a commonsense solution to building disputes, so you will need professional advice to achieve that," said Richard.

"Employing the services of a chartered building surveyor at an early stage could save you a lot of money in the long run."



ADVICE: Richard Metcalfe



**■** PLAYFOOT and Company has merged with Top 100 accountancy firm, Begbies Chettle Agar. The combined entity, Begbies Playfoot, retains the Playfoot offices in Stone Street, Cranbrook.

Playfoot's managing partner and founder Darrell Playfoot will also continue with the new-look firm. He said: "It has been our concern to identify a firm whose expertise and operating style will suit and be advantageous for the interests of our particular client base and we trust Begbies Chettle Agar will be that firm."

However, he relinquishes his role as managing partner to Daniel Valentine from the Begbies team. He will divide his time between Cranbrook and the firm's London office and pledged that Playfoot's management and staff would stay in place.

Ironically, Begbies used to have a Kent office but relinquished it in 1973. Playfoot and Co was founded in 1986.

**■ A NEW networking group will be launched by the north Kent branch of the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) in Medway at Priestfield Stadium, Gillingham, from 7.30am to 9am on Thursday.**

Staged in association with Help For Heroes, it is open to all businesses, FSB members and potential members, and will then be held at the same venue on every last Thursday of the month throughout 2011.

FSB branch chairman Neville Gaunt said the aim was to encourage local businesses to work and improve together as part of the FSB Keep Trade Local campaign. For more information, click on the website [www.fsb.org.uk/FSBKentEvents](http://www.fsb.org.uk/FSBKentEvents)

**■** LAW firm associate Laura Small, of Cripps Harries Hall, has gained Resolution accredited specialist status in the area of children's law and financial provision on divorce.

Laura trained with Tunbridge Wells and London-based Cripps and has over five years' experience as a family solicitor.

She said: "As a committed Resolution member I approach all my cases in a non-confrontational manner, hopefully reducing the emotional and financial costs of divorce or separation."

Set up in 1999, the Resolution scheme is designed to help those facing family breakdown to find a specialist solicitor to handle their case in a conciliatory fashion.

To become accredited, solicitors undergo stringent examination to demonstrate their knowledge of the key areas.

Cripps is now one of just a few law firms in the South East with two Resolution accredited specialists.

**■ BEEF and lamb producers across Kent have been invited to find out more about the work done by EBLEX, the organisation promoting the industry's quality standard mark.**

The free event, at Ashford Market from 5.45pm to 9pm on Thursday, February 3, is intended to update on export markets for beef, lamb and offal, and on marketing, and there will be a butchery demonstration showing innovative meat cuts to maximise carcass value and versatility.

There will also be information on measures the sector can take to reduce its impact on climate change. To book a free place, email [selma.todd@eblex.org.uk](mailto:selma.todd@eblex.org.uk).

**■ WEALDEN Business Group has presented a cheque for £800 to the Hospice in the Weald. The money was raised throughout last year by the group's weekly breakfasts at the Little Silver Country Hotel, Tenterden, and other events. The Pembury hospice's Amanda Wyatt accepted the cheque from business group chairman Mike Parmar, of Wave2 Communications.**



RELAXED: Travelodge will open a new hotel in Ramsgate this year, says Guy Parsons

# Tough trading has bookstore chain on brink

DISCOUNT bookstore British Bookshops and Stationers (BBS) – more familiarly known as Sussex Stationers – has gone into administration.

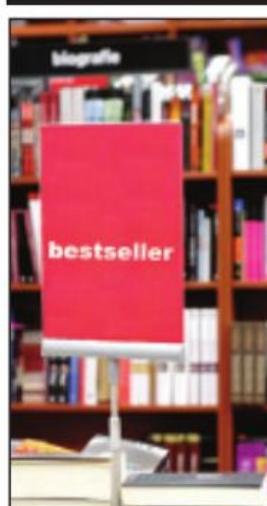
The firm has branches in Ashford, Canterbury, Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone and around 50 in all across the South East, but has been brought to the brink by poor sales during the severe pre-Christmas weather and cashflow problems in its dealing with publishers.

But recovery specialists at Zolfo Cooper have been appointed as administrators and hope to sell the chain as a going concern, potentially saving some 300 jobs.

Zolfo Cooper partner Simon Appell said: "The appointment is, unfortunately, the result of cashflow difficulties suffered by the business, coupled with the tough trading climate for retailers and especially booksellers at present.

"This is an attractive company with a large network of stores across the south of England and we have already received expressions of interest from potential buyers."

The firm was founded in 1938 as Sussex Stationers in Brighton and steadily expanded recently with its formula of newspapers and magazines plus discounted books and stationery, despite the presence of high street giant WH Smith and mega-bookstores such as Waterstone's and the now defunct Borders, which crashed in 2009 citing tough competition from the internet – a factor



which may also have affected BBS.

An early warning sign was owner Eason and Sons' decision to sell BBS to private equity firm Endless in May, 2009, after a reported 2008 pre-tax loss of £1.8 million.

A management buy-out followed and the chain was reported to be making a recovery after a jobs and cost-cutting drive, but it now risks becoming the first High Street crash of 2011.

## Parsons knows Kent coast can offer the most

LOCATIONS in Kent are part of expansion plans for Travelodge, which aims to sustain its claim to be the UK's fastest growing hotel chain.

It has 35 hotels (3,667 rooms), 700 new jobs and a £300 million spend slated for the UK this year to take its estate to 495 hotels.

These include re-development at Canterbury's Chaucer Central hotel and an all-new hotel on Ramsgate seafront.

The latter, on Royal Parade, will create 15 jobs and have 68 beds and a bar/café.

Guy Parsons, Travelodge chief executive, said the chain had hunted a hotel for the seafront for some time, adding: "I have no doubt that when the site opens it will quickly become one of our top performing hotels this summer."

### Delighted

"Our nearby site in Margate has performed strongly for us throughout the recession so I am delighted we will be opening a new hotel in Ramsgate in 2011. The location is perfect for both business and leisure visitors."

"The hotels we will build this year have been a result of Travelodge's commitment to expand during the recession whilst many companies put their development on hold."

"As a result of the recession, we have successfully acquired superior sites due to lower market property prices, which otherwise would not have been available for hotel use."

Travelodge was Britain's first budget hotel brand when it launched in 1985, but it has also diversified away from its traditional roadside locations and focused more on city centre growth.



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## German firm favours our sunny disposition



GERMAN solar energy specialist SunConcept Holding AG has expanded into the UK and set up a subsidiary at Kings Hill, near West Malling.

The Government's introduction of Feed-in Tariffs on April 1, 2010, for localised solar and wind power generation has made the UK attractive to solar energy companies anyway, but Catherine Stevens-Jung, MD of SunConcept's UK arm said: "Kent is ideally positioned for our business, allowing us to easily access other parts of the country and the continent. Kent is also a very sunny county, making it an excellent location for solar energy."

"We plan to expand our Kent operation over the next three years to replicate our German presence, and in time hope to be able to look for warehouse facilities here."

SunConcept's arrival in Kent was masterminded by inward investment agency Locate in Kent, where chief executive Paul Wooley said: "It's very exciting that Kent is attracting companies like SunConcept, with their knowledge-based, quality jobs and expertise in the renewable ener-

gy sector. The UK's solar energy market is expected to grow considerably over the next few years and Kent is in an excellent position to benefit."

Government incentives mean energy suppliers make payments to householders and communities which generate their own electricity from renewable or low-carbon sources. As a result, a recent PricewaterhouseCoopers report estimated that the country's solar PV (photovoltaic) energy capacity could grow 30 times to reach 1,000MW (megawatts).

SunConcept manufactures its own PV solar modules backed by a planning, installation and investment package and sells directly to customers and other installers, but wants to target owners of agricultural land and commercial roof space, county and district councils, as well as registered social landlords interested in leasing roof space or land in return for free installation of its solar systems.

Those customers then benefit from the free use of electricity generated onsite, but surplus can then be sold on by SunConcept.

# Matt's debt of Hayesbrook's

KOS media BUSINESS WEEK

## THE BIG INTERVIEW

**At a time when many jobless graduates question whether the time and cost of a degree was worth it, entrepreneur Matt Sankey beats the drum for a more vocational approach. He has enhanced the reputation of his family's well-established Tunbridge Wells restaurant, and also developed a new fishmonger business that is making waves across the South East – not bad for a bloke who never really liked school and left at 16. JON COATES tracked him down during yet another hectic week**



MATT SANKEY

### MATT SANKEY'S CV

- 1996 – left Hayesbrook School in Tonbridge with "a handful of GCSEs"
- 1996 – works in sales at Sunglasses Hut
- 1998 – joins Carphone Warehouse and works up to be a store manager
- 2003 – works for Jota motorsport team in looking after tyres on racing cars
- 2005 – becomes manager of Sankey's pub and restaurant
- 2010 – buys out father to become owner of Sankey's businesses

meet the demand from wholesale trade.

As well as supplying Sankey's bar and restaurant, they are now sourcing quality fish and seafood for 100 other restaurants and nursing homes from Eastbourne in Sussex across to Whitstable in Kent.

But Matt and Graeme are keen that the popularity of the wholesale side of their fishmongers business will not affect the retail side at their shop in Vale Road,



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MATT'S EMPIRE: Sankey's bar and restaurant



# gratitude to people-skills

Tunbridge Wells.

They will take on 15 new staff to work at the warehouse, adding to the seven already employed at the fishmongers and the 30 employed at Sankey's bar and restaurant. And the man at the helm of Sankey's, who is aged just 30, has ambitious plans for further ventures in the town which are being kept a closely-guarded secret for now.

He said: "Next year we are celebrating 50 years of Sankey's in Tunbridge Wells, which I am so proud of as this a huge achievement for a family business.

"The fishmongers will be expanded. Once we have the warehouse open we will be able to expand the wholesale side of this business and with regards to the pub and restaurant side, there are several blueprints for expansion.

"We are just waiting for the right opportunity to arise, as I am not going to do something for the sake of it. Any plans have to fit in with the brand and be a positive addition to the organisation, like the fishmongers has been."

His grandfather started the family business in 1961 by buying the George and Dragon pub in Speldhurst and creating a restaurant upstairs.

His son, Guy, worked at this restaurant, before working in London and then taking on The Gate in Hildenborough, near the train station.

He turned this into a seafood restaurant called Sankey's at The Gate, before taking over the lease of the Compasses in the same village and turning this into a booming bar and restaurant.

**A**FTER learning that Sankey's current location in Tunbridge Wells was on the market, Matt's father moved the business there in 1987 and has not looked back.

Matt left school aged 16 with, in his own words, "not many GCSEs" and "no ambition of working in a pub".

He took a sales job at the Sunglasses Hut in Royal Victoria Place, which he says he loved, and then moved on to the Carphone Warehouse in the shopping centre for five years, becoming its manager. After trying his hand as a recruitment consultant he worked for motorsport team Jota, making sure tyre pressures and temperatures were correct on their cars.

But a call from his father Guy five years ago, saying he was thinking of selling the family business to retire, prompted a change of direction, with Matt asking to be given time to learn how to run Sankey's as manager with a view to taking it on.

He bought the business from his father earlier this year, so is now in complete control of the Sankey's empire.

The business has been forced to adapt to changes in recent years, with professional people taking less time for lunches and wanting to spend less, as well as enjoying the informal setting of the bar for food.

And Matt's use of sustainably sourced fish and seafood has also proved popular with customers and the wholesale market.

The new owner, who regularly works 80 to 100 hours a week, says he has been able to drive the business forward because he is passionate about what he is doing and has great managers and staff.

He said: "My philosophy with the pub is that it is very easy to work at a pub and all of a sudden it becomes your lifestyle and one day you end up sitting at the bar, drinking with the locals.

"Some people can do that but I can't. For me it is a job and so when I am here it is work only. I have a drink when I go out socialising, but not here.

"Over the last few years I have brought in a hard work ethic as I wanted to build the business up, but it is a slow progression to make the changes needed over time."

Matt also decided to invest in one of the most important parts of his business, his staff, when the recession hit.

He said: "I realised that if I started making cutbacks I could lose customers for life.

"We are in the service industry, so I actually took on more staff to make sure everyone coming to Sankey's bar and restaurant left saying how great the service was.

"The staff are the last point of contact with customers so are very important in leaving them with a good impression that will keep them coming back."

## MATT'S TOP TIPS

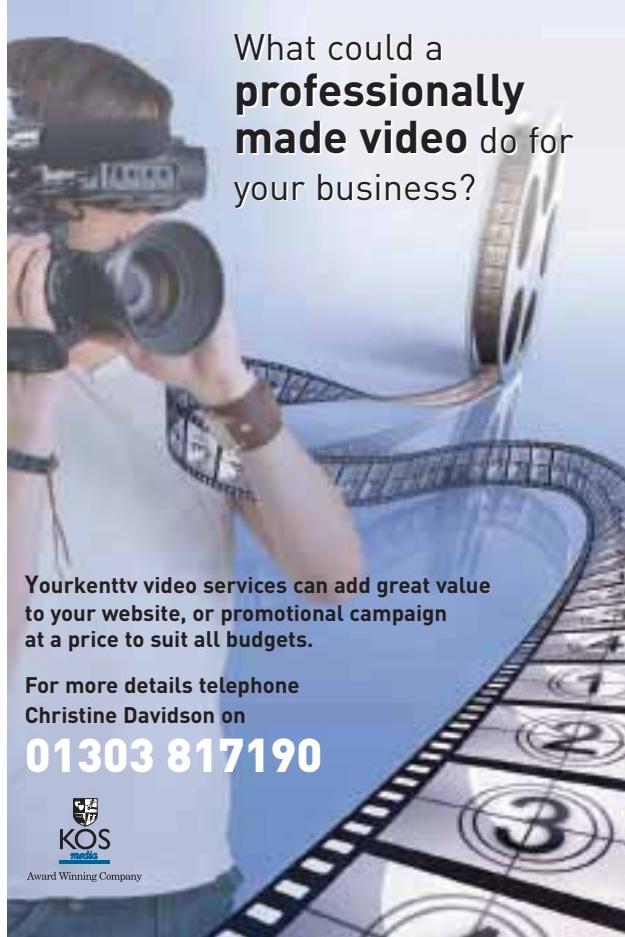
- "I believe the two most important parts of your business are you staff and customers. They are the two vital cogs that constantly need oiling"
- "Communication with customers, whether it be via social media, networking or old-fashioned conversation, is vital. Listen to them – they hold the keys"
- "Retail is detail, all the little details add up"
- "I also have the following rules that I stick to, they are not mine but work a treat:

  - 1 Always treat the customer as you yourself would like to be treated
  - 2 Winning an argument with a customer doesn't win anything but the loss of that customer
  - 3 If we don't look after the customer someone else will
  - 4 Always deliver what you promise. If in doubt, under-promise and over-deliver
  - 5 The reputation is in the hands of every individual"



POWER PLAY: Matt Sankey is determined to drive the firm forward

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# Food and drink industry builds up to Kent awards

**FINALISTS** in the Taste of Kent Awards 2010 are just five weeks from hearing which of them will be the county's 12 food and drink heroes, *writes Steve Loader*.

The competition is staged by Produced in Kent, which champions the best food and drink producers, retailers, restaurants, dining pubs and farmers' markets across the "Garden of England".

Last year's awards generated an 89 per cent increase in public votes, and current voting has again exceeded 10,000, this time nominating 542 businesses and products to contest the 12 food and drink 'Oscars'. Some categories have been amended to reflect changing trends and tastes.

Three finalists in each category are now subjected to an expert judging panel and mystery shoppers/diners, and the winners will be revealed at a glittering awards ceremony at Leeds Castle on February 25.

Notable 2010 highlights include Kent Seafood Retailer of the Year (sponsored by South East Seafood), which has seen a 50 per cent rise in votes. Independent fishmongers have faced some of the biggest challenges in retailing and South East Seafood was "delighted that voters are supporting local fishmongers".

Best Kentish Brewery of the Year (sponsored



**Julie Monkman**

by Cask Marque) is another hotly-contested category, with a 28 per cent increase in votes reflecting new interest in brewing after the resurgence of micro breweries in the county. Previous winner Ramsgate Brewery joins the UK's oldest and Kent's largest brewery, Faversham's Shepherd Neame, in the final three, together with Whitstable Brewery, which actually brews near Maidstone.

The newly re-named Kent Dining Pub of the Year category highlights gastro-pubs serving excellent and hearty Kentish food. Votes here rose by 39 per cent resulting in a fierce battle.

New finalists in this category are The George and Dragon in Chipstead, which tackles previous winners The Haywain (2009), near Canterbury, and The Plough (2008), near Faversham. The county has shown itself to

have a sweet tooth so, battling it out for Kent Food Product of The Year (sponsored by Opies), are three expert producers of sweet treats: Madame Oiseau Fine Chocolates being nominated for its Kent Honey Caramel; Blue Bell Hill Apiaries for its Kent Honey; and Kent Fine Foods for its Lavender Jelly.

## Excellence

The east of Kent continues to be a centre of excellence in food and drink and Thanet nominees show particular strength in the various category finalists: fishmonger and gourmet fish and chip shop Eddie Gilberts is nominated for Seafood Retailer and for Restaurant of the Year; J C Rooks of Ramsgate is short-listed for Meat Retailer; Ramsgate Brewery is a Best Brewery finalist; Quex Barn is up for Best Local Food Retailer; and Em's Cupcakes of Ramsgate has designs on Artisan Food Producer, but faces local competition from a former winner, The Chai Stop, the Ramsgate Asian cuisine specialist.

Perhaps most impressive of all is Cliftonville Farmers' Market which has reached the top three in the Farmers' Market category for five years on the trot.

Julie Monkman, manager at Produced in Kent said: "The Taste of Kent Awards continues to go from strength to strength as consumers vote in their thousands to acknowledge some of the best producers and retailers of food and drink."

"All three finalists in each of the 12 categories have done incredibly well to get this far and they all help to maintain and raise the bar for Kent as a county of excellence for food and drink production."

The Taste of Kent Awards ([www.tasteofkentawards.co.uk](http://www.tasteofkentawards.co.uk)) is again sponsored overall by Whitehead Monckton Solicitors. Other sponsors include Archant KOS Media, publisher of Kent on Saturday and on Sunday and of Business Week.

## THE FULL LIST OF FINALISTS

### Meat Retailer:

**BUTCHER OF BROGDALE**, Faversham  
**GODMERSHAM GAME**, Canterbury  
**JC ROOK & SON**, Ramsgate

### Best Brewery:

**RAMSGATE BREWERY**  
**SHEPHERD NEAME**, Faversham  
**WHITSTABLE BREWERY**, Grafton Green

### Best Vineyard:

**BIDDENDEN VINEYARD**  
**CHAPEL DOWN WINERY**, Tenterden  
**MEOPHAM VALLEY VINEYARD**

### Best Cider Maker:

**BIDDENDEN**  
**BIG TREE CIDER**, Hartley  
**ROUGH OLD WIFE**, Canterbury

### Juice Producer of the Year:

**BIDDENDEN**  
**CORE FRUIT PRODUCTS**, Canterbury  
**OWLET FRUIT JUICE**, Lamberhurst

### Local Food Retailer:

**HAVEN FARM SHOP**, Sutton Valence  
**MACKNADE FINE FOODS**, Faversham  
**QUEX BARN**, Birchington

### Seafood Retailer:

**EDDIE GILBERT'S**, Ramsgate  
**OCTOPUSY**, Whitstable  
**SANKEY'S**, Tunbridge Wells

### Food Product of the Year:

**KENT HONEY**, BLUE BELL HILL APIARIES, Gillingham  
**KENT HONEY CARAMELS**, MADAM OISEAU FINE CHOCOLATES, Canterbury  
**LAVENDER JELLY**, KENT FINE FOODS, Gillingham

### Artisan Food Producer:

**THE CHAI STOP**, Ramsgate  
**CORINNE'S CREATIVE KITCHEN**, Faversham  
**EM'S CUPCAKES**, Ramsgate

### Restaurant:

**EDDIE GILBERT'S**, Ramsgate  
**MULBERRY TREE**, Boughton Monchelsea  
**SECRET GARDEN**, Ashford

### Dining Pub:

**GEORGE & DRAGON**, Chipstead  
**THE HAYWAIN**, Barming  
**PLough**, Stalisfield

### Farmers' Market:

**CLIFTONVILLE**; **HILDENBOROUGH**; **SHIPBOURNE**



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# Superfast broadband: Is it arriving quickly enough?

Development of the internet's scope, options and services are fast outstripping the ability of the UK's outmoded and still fragmented broadband network. Yet this area of technology is vital to the economy of Kent and the UK generally as it seeks to rebuild after recession. Business Week editor STEVE LOADER uploads some thoughts on where we are now and where we could end up, and it's a mixed picture – a bit like the one some are getting through their current broadband link...

**E**VERY business and community has been promised access to superfast broadband by 2015 under latest Government plans.

And it was vital that the Coalition made the pledge this early in its term if it was to stand by its commitment to rebuild a broad-based UK economy.

But it is caught between a rock and hard place: Culture Secretary Jeremy Hunt said it wanted the UK's broadband to be the envy of Europe once this new infrastructure is in place, but it will not be cheap and – as we all know – the country is strapped for cash.

The proposal is to borrow the model used successfully by South Korea, which has quickly put

in one of the world's best networks – up to 100Mb/sec – by tapping into the ambition and investment of private firms there. But South Korea's economy is one of the healthiest in the world and that's not something we can say about Britain's, and where will the Koreans have got up to when and if we've upgraded from a national average yet to hit 2Mb/sec?

Nevertheless, Coalition ministers calculate that some two-thirds of the new comms network can be funded by private firms, while a dwindling public pot can be raided for the less commercially attractive rural areas – more than £800m is expected to be needed.

Reaction from businesses and the public has been less than ecstatic though, since the previous government had promised a universal 2Mb/sec broadband speed by 2012 – a lifeline to areas saddled with an outmoded dial-up service when so much new broadband-hungry tech is finding its way into homes and businesses.

I spoke with the boss of a hi-tech video firm in his studio last week who was almost punching the desk with frustration while a YouTube video uploaded with glacial speed to his high-spec Mac computer.

But the Government's argument – a not unreasonable one – is that rather than trying to play catch-up by delivering modest speeds already enjoyed by many already, we should aim to leap ahead and become the best in a fast-changing comms environment.

The industry regulator Ofcom recently revealed that fewer than one per cent of homes currently have superfast broadband connection – rated at 24Mb/sec at least.

But the Government has been vague about what it calls 'superfast' and cites other factors as important which, reading between the lines will probably be the fastest and most widespread service it can get for its money and what the private sector is prepared to chip in.

Users are understandably cynical



anyway, since very few get the broadband speeds advertised even now. Why would they expect superfast broadband to deliver what it says?

Several IT gurus have told me rather ruefully: "At least our disappointment would arrive a bit faster if we get all this investment."

There is also the apparently insoluble problem of speeds dropping the further your business or home is from the broadband community hub or exchange.

The suggestion is that many of the

hubs in any new network will use speedy fibre-optics in their immediate areas, thereby extending the reach and speed of services to more outlying locations that remain connected using older connections.

Even this looks like fudging the issue, though, when some European neighbours like Holland are now going 'fully optical'.

However, the cost of that approach is probably prohibitive and unrealistic in a larger country like ours and with a far more dispersed population and industry than that of the Netherlands. The real concern is that we will continue to get the patchwork quilt we have now, with the private sector reluctant to invest any more than it has to, while focusing more on just economic survival.

Meanwhile, areas which have been identified as 'needy' such as the wilds of Wales and Scotland, will attract public and EU funding and leapfrog ahead.

One further possibility is a local initiative like that in Cornwall.

Most businesses in the Duchy – long regarded as a depressed area overly reliant on a fickle tourist industry – will have access to 100Mb/sec fibre optic broadband by 2014 after announcing a groundbreaking £132m partnership between BT and Cornwall County Council and backed by some EU cash.

It is estimated the project will create or protect some 6,000 jobs. BT is now championing this partnership approach as a widespread solution.

Food for thought here in Kent?



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# Help us build an extension to Kentish Flats Offshore Wind Farm

Vattenfall, a leading European energy company, would like to extend its Kentish Flats Offshore Wind Farm (also known by local people as Whitstable or Herne Bay Wind Farm) with up to 17 wind turbines. This Statement of Community Consultation explains how you can comment on its proposed application for a development consent order to the Infrastructure Planning Commission.

## Kentish Flats Extension - the proposal

The existing Kentish Flats wind farm with 30 wind turbines has been producing green electricity since 2005. The proposed extension is around 8km off Herne Bay and will be to the south and west of the current project. It could add up to 17 wind turbines in 7.7 km<sup>2</sup> of sea, in water depths between three and five metres at lowest tide.

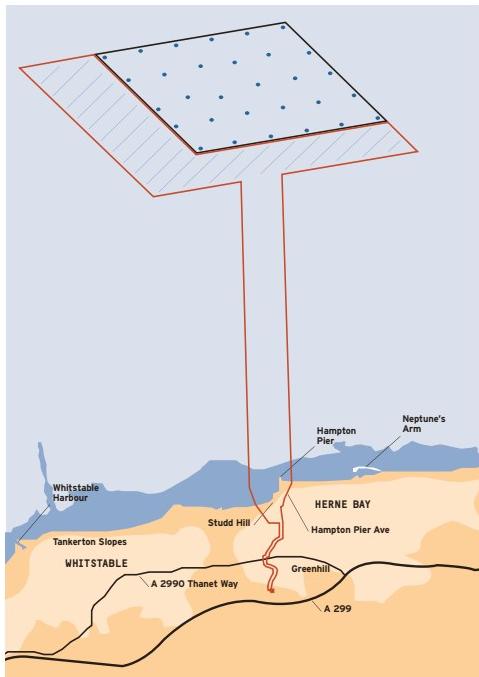
The wind turbines for the extension will have a similar capacity to those currently used, with a tip height up to 145 metres. The turbines will be placed on top of large steel tube foundations which will be driven up to 35 metres into the seabed, similar to the current scheme.

Underwater cables will connect turbines to the existing offshore substation from which one or two underwater cables will run to shore at Hampton Pier, Herne Bay. Onshore, the new cables will follow the route of the existing cabling along the Hampton Pier Road under paved roads to the Red House Farm substation south of Herne Bay. KFE will not require any changes to the power grid.

Due to its scale, Vattenfall must do an assessment, known as EIA, of possible significant environmental effects of the extension.

We are also seeking views from all interests, including the public, on the proposal. We will consult on the whole project and have identified the following as likely to be important:

- Potential cumulative impacts on Red-throated divers in the Thames Estuary
- Visual, landscape and seascape effects
- Impact on fishing, leisure and business interests, including tourism
- Impact of onshore construction on nearby households
- Impact on traffic on roads caused by onshore works



There will be an opportunity to consider these and other points, during the consultation process. We will make available the preliminary findings of our EIA. This initial environmental information will also describe any alternatives we are considering and measures to minimise impacts.

## Why Vattenfall wants to extend Kentish Flats

Kentish Flats Extension (KFE) could generate up to 150,000 megawatt hours per year of clean electricity, if 17 turbines are deployed. This is equivalent to the total annual electricity needs of up to 35,000 UK homes.

The UK's delivery of its offshore wind potential could supply the equivalent of 30% of the country's electricity demand. Offshore wind in the UK will help European green energy targets and the reduction of emissions that cause climate change.

Vattenfall is committed to major reductions in carbon emissions from its activities as an energy company. Wind power will meet that commitment.

## About Vattenfall

Vattenfall is a leading European energy company and is Europe's fifth largest generator of electricity and the continent's largest producer of heat. Across the north of Europe we operate many wind farms on land and in the sea. This includes Kentish Flats and Thanet Offshore Wind Farm, which is the world's largest offshore wind farm.

## Statement of Community Consultation and the Infrastructure Planning Commission

In 2008 new planning laws changed the way projects like KFE are dealt with. Under this new regime the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) controls the planning process for nationally significant infrastructure projects. Vattenfall will submit its proposal to the IPC following a consultation with both the community and organisations including the local authorities, Marine Management Organisation and Natural England.

We will carefully consider all responses received and when the application is made we will report to the IPC and all responders detailing how we have taken the communities' views into account.

The IPC will ask Kent County Council and Canterbury City Council for their opinion of the Vattenfall community consultation. The Councils' opinion will play an important part in whether the IPC accepts the application.

## Other planning matters

When the IPC decides on KFE it will take into account any energy related National Policy Statements (NPSs) published by the UK Government. These are currently in draft but will be finalised before a decision is made. These include: Energy (EN-1); Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3); and, Electricity Network Infrastructure (EN-5).

Vattenfall is unaware of any other applications to the IPC or local authorities or consultations which are relevant to this proposal.

You can view a document which describes our approach to the consultation on the Vattenfall website.

If you need help to understand this proposal and the IPC process you can contact Planning Aid by calling 0870 850 9806 or visiting [www.rtpi.org.uk/planningaid/planning\\_aid\\_in\\_your\\_area/south\\_east/](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/planningaid/planning_aid_in_your_area/south_east/)

## PUBLIC INFORMATION & CONSULTATION DAYS

Date & Time	Location
23 Feb 2011 2-8pm	Kings Hall Beacon Hill, Herne Bay, CT6 5BA
24 Feb 2011 2-8pm	Whitstable Castle Tower Hill, Whitstable, CT5 2BW

## How you can find out more and tell Vattenfall what you think

Visit the website:  
[www.vattenfall.co.uk/en/kentish-flats-extension.htm](http://www.vattenfall.co.uk/en/kentish-flats-extension.htm)

Email: [mandy.broughton@vattenfall.com](mailto:mandy.broughton@vattenfall.com)

Call: (0)7545 339 299

Post: Mandy Broughton, Kentish Flats Extension, Vattenfall Wind Power, 10 Greycoat Place, London, SW1P 1SB  
Or use the feedback form and questionnaire available at the Public Information Days and public places where project documents are lodged.

This community consultation starts on 31 January, 2011 and you must reply in writing by 4 March, 2011 using the methods described above.

Please note that responses may be made public.

## Help us build the best possible wind farm - get in touch

Vattenfall has already started its consultation but the formal community consultation runs from 31 January 2011 to 4 March 2011. Kentish Flats is already an important feature in the area and we value our good relations with local people.

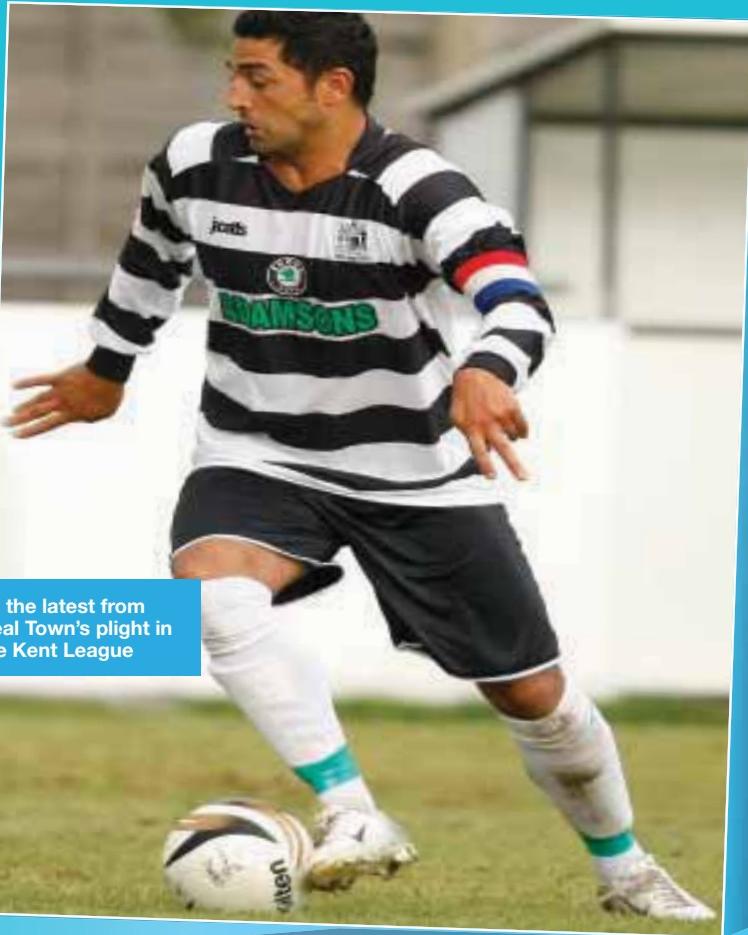
Please look at our proposals, the preliminary environmental information, maps and other documents. All of these will be available on our website for the duration of the application and, during the consultation period at the locations noted below.

Your views will be taken into account as we complete the assessments of the KFE, finalise the design of the wind farm, and before we submit an application to the IPC.

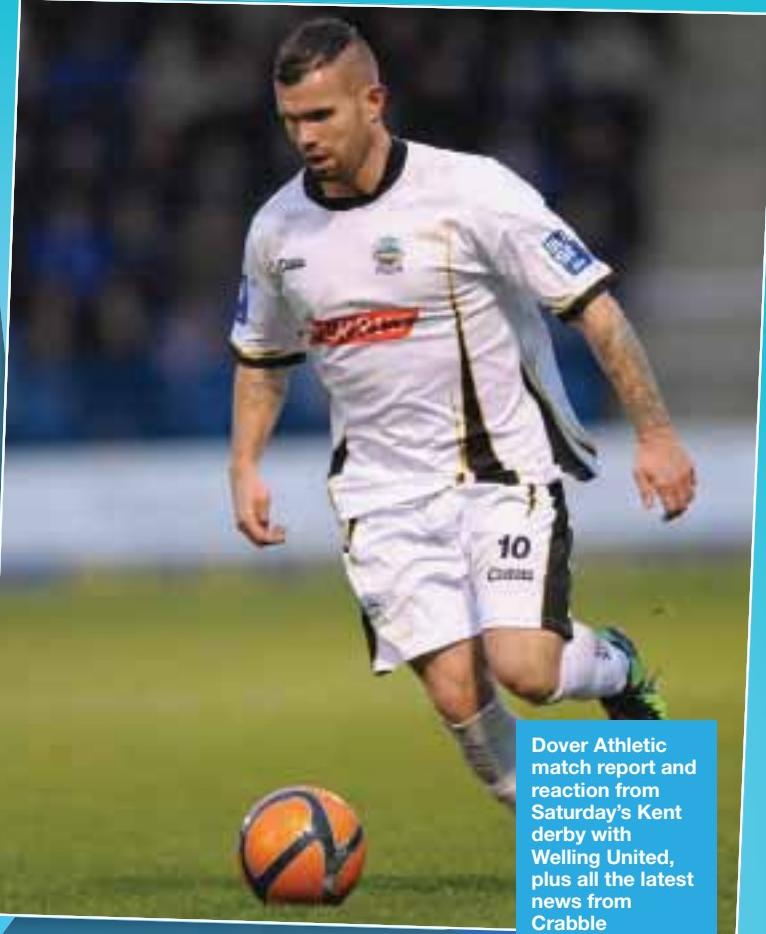
We will also do the following to help the Thames Estuary coastal community, especially around Herne Bay and Whitstable, and other interests, express their views on our plans:

- Contact by letter homes and businesses likely to be affected by our plans
- Hold public information and consultation days in Herne Bay and Whitstable with specialist staff on hand
- Advertise our plans in local papers
- Advertise the Statement of Community Consultation in local papers in the Thames Estuary region
- Hold separate workshops and meetings with fishermen, other users of the sea and the region's businesses
- Continue meetings with the Area Member Panels and Parish Councils of Whitstable and Herne Bay
- Maintain contact with all those who have shown an interest in the project
- Continue working with local media to publicise Vattenfall's plans
- Place all relevant documents on the Vattenfall website, including a questionnaire
- Work with Kent County Council and Canterbury City Council to inform local interests of our proposals explaining how they can get involved
- Work with both Councils to identify and engage with hard-to-reach groups
- Place the PEI, maps, other relevant documents and envelopes and questionnaires in the Harbour Office, Whitstable Harbour, the Canterbury City Council office in Herne Bay, Medway Council (Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham), Swale Borough Council (Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne), Thanet District Council (Cecil Street, Margate), Maldon District Council (Princes Road, Maldon), Rochford District Council, (3-19 South Street, Rochford) Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (12th Fl, Civic Centre, Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea), Castle Point Borough Council (Kiln Road, Benfleet)

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